

Kent on Sunday

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East Edition No 591

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County leader denies pressure from Westminster

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Fact and fiction of Freemasons

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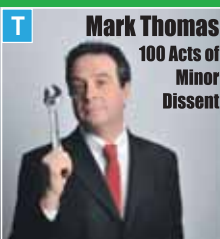
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We all desire light to be shone on the darkest of secrets

THERE is something we cannot resist about a secret.

It may actually protect the most inconsequential piece of information, but by terming it a 'secret' our desire to learn of it becomes intense and our expectation of what it will contain immense.

All of which the Freemasons know and relish. The 'brotherhood' hints at secrets. It hints at influence. It hints at intrigue.

So when we were given the chance to take a look around one of its Masonic lodges this week, it was difficult to resist. You'll find our in-depth report inside a fascinating read.

Kent County Council leader Paul Carter is probably sick to the back teeth of his welfare report becoming such must-read material.

After withdrawing it at the last minute, it sparked enormous interest. What did it say



Editor **Chris Britcher**

that made it have to be withdrawn? This week it re-emerged in edited form and, shock, no longer points such a guilty finger in the Coalition's direction for increased homelessness and use of foodbanks in the county.

Again, by making it something we're not supposed to read, it made it essential reading.

An unwanted mystery for more than two decades now has been the tragic murder of Claire Tiltman. The 16-year-old was brutally stabbed as she went to visit a friend in Green-

hithe 21 years ago this weekend. Her killer has never been caught. On our news pages, we speak to the police about the investigation and how they are determined to bring the person responsible to justice – and Claire's school friends who are determined the teenager's memory continues to live on. The county stands resolute behind them.

Enjoy your weekend.

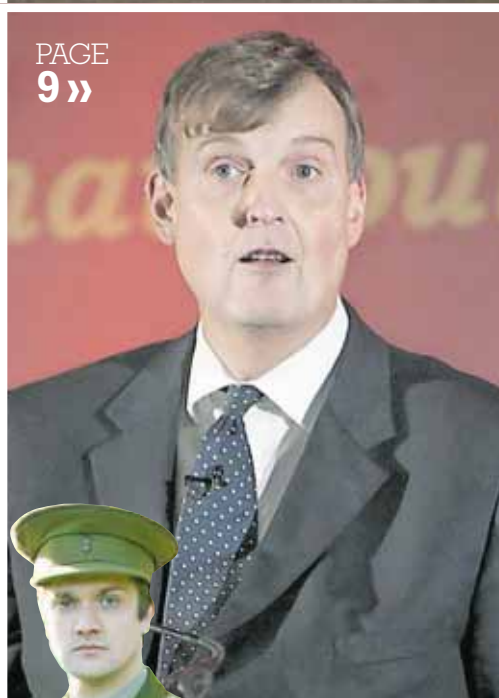
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Police vow to catch killer 21 years on from murder

By Marijke Cox

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A SENIOR officer at the county's force has vowed to keep hunting Claire Tiltman's killer on the 21st anniversary of the tragic school-girl's death.

The 16-year-old, known as Tilt by her friends, was brutally stabbed as she walked to visit a friend close to her home in Greenhithe on January 18, 1993.

Despite constant appeals, her murderer has never been found – with both Claire's parents, Linda and Cliff, dying before seeing justice for their only child.

In September last year, police sent forensic teams to the home of the parents of Colin Ash-Smith, a man police quizzed over Claire's killing at the time.

Former milkman Ash-Smith was quizzed but never charged. But he was given three life sentences in 1997 for the attempted murder of two women, including the stabbing of 22-year-old Charlotte Barnard in October 1995, just yards from the alleyway where Claire was killed.

His father insists his son is innocent of the teen's murder.

As friends gathered on the



MURDER: Alleyway in Greenhithe where teen was brutally killed in 1993 and, right, victim Claire Tiltman

anniversary of her death, Detective Chief Inspector Robert Vinson, from Kent Police's major crime unit, told KoS the force remained "absolutely committed" to bringing her killer to justice.

"Claire was 16 years old at the time of her murder with her whole future ahead of her," he said.

"That evening someone took that future away. Not only that, but the lives of Claire's family and friends were destroyed at the same time.

"We are actively investigating

this case and I would urge anyone who has any information which could help us to contact the police."

Speaking to this newspaper, Claire's best friend Lisa Gribbin said they will not give up hope.

Ms Gribbin was one of a group of six of Claire's friends to set up the Justice for Claire campaign.

"So many people are behind us and their support has never waned, that's what keeps us all believing a conclusion to Tilt's murder will come," she said.

This weekend the group is holding a special event to remember Claire by and to raise money for EllenorLions Hospice, where Claire's mother was cared for before she died from cancer in 2008, and the Fire Fighters Charity. Claire had aspired to be a firefighter.

"We want to hold onto the amazing memories we have but also create so many more so they can be remembered in a good way and not for what happened."

Dead animals, drugs, stolen cars and cash all found in raid on farm

DEAD birds, evidence of cock-fighting, suspected stolen dogs, cash and what police believe were Class A drugs, have been found following a raid on a converted barn near Sittingbourne.

Officers made the discovery on Monday when they converged on the farm in Raspberry Hill Lane.

Executing a warrant for drugs, they found up to 170 birds, including a number of dead cockerels and what they believe to be a cockfighting ring. Three men have been arrested.

They also discovered paraphernalia connected with the training of birds for fighting as well as veterinary drugs.

In a further grisly discovery, suspected stolen vehicles were found with a number of dead birds hidden in their boots.

The remains of a dead horse were also found near the barn.

Around 100 wraps of what police suspect to be a Class A drug were discovered and are now being tested. A "substantial" quantity of cash was

also seized.

A number of dogs found at the site – several of which are suspected to be stolen – are being checked before being re-homed.

Detective Sergeant Pat Holmes said: "Officers also uncovered a barn fully stocked with live birds, which at this stage are believed to have been bred for fighting.

"Kent Police will work with the RSPCA to investigate further and also determine whether dogs and other animals found on the site are stolen or have been subjected to animal cruelty."

A 47-year-old man from Teynham and a 20-year-old man from Swanley were arrested on suspicion of animal cruelty, proceeds of crime, possession with intent to supply and a series of theft offences.

A 21-year-old man from Upchurch was arrested on suspicion of supplying a controlled drug.

All three men have been bailed until April 9 pending further enquiries.

KEA

Town's £86m regeneration scheme moves to next stage

AMBITIOUS multi-million pound regeneration plans for Tonbridge town centre have received a cautious welcome from local residents.

The £86m scheme was put before locals in October during a public exhibition.

The plans, submitted by the local council and Sainsbury's, would see a new larger store, petrol station and multi-screen cinema at its

existing Angel Centre site, with the council relocating the leisure centre to the Bradford Street car park.

Some 65 per cent of all the respondents indicated support for the Sainsbury's proposals with 70 per cent stating they either 'supported' or 'maybe supported' the council's proposals.

Planning applications are likely to be submitted later this year.

Estuary airport: Decision will be made by this September

A DECISION on whether the Thames Estuary airport plan will go forward as one of the formal options to tackle the country's aviation capacity needs will be made in September.

A report released by the Airports Commission on Thursday said if the Grain proposal is "considered credible" it will go into the detailed development stage and

then be consulted upon nationally before a final decision is made in 2015.

Plans for the estuary airport were not shortlisted alongside Gatwick and Heathrow expansion schemes by the Davies Commission last month due to "too many challenges". However, it was not ruled out with the commission calling for more time to consider the plans.



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Work starts to fill in giant hole found in village

WORK is finally set to start to repair a massive hole that swallowed a huge section of the main road which runs through the village of Leeds near Maidstone.

The hole, which measures around 50 cubic metres, was discovered by a water worker in Upper Street in November. Four nearby homes had to be evacuated as steps were taken to protect them.

However, although work to fill it is beginning, there is

no date as to when this will be completed.

John Burr, director of highways and transportation at Kent County Council, said: "These works are highly complex and we may encounter further challenges as we progress, but we would like to assure local residents that we are working to reopen the highway as soon as possible."

Diversions along the A20 are in place.



VICTIM: Tributes for Zoe Georgiou

Sex abuse crimes against primary school children in county rocket by 25%

By Marijke Cox

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THERE has been a sharp rise in the number of primary school children being sexually abused in Kent, according to a children's charity.

The NSPCC figures reveal 285 such crimes recorded by Kent Police in 2013 - up 25 per cent on 228 the previous year.

The shocking findings showed that on average at least one in five of all recorded sexual offences against children involved those in primary or junior school, aged five to 11.

Since the Jimmy Savile exposé in 2012, the number of calls to victims' helplines has grown significantly, with charity heads attributing it to increased public awareness of the crime and the signs to look out for if they suspect it.

Campaigns such as the NSPCC's Underwear Rule, which provides parents of young children with resources to talk to their youngsters about abuse, have also helped, with



ON THE UP: Rise in abuse figures

some 2.3 million people viewing the online video to understand how to tackle the issue.

Detective Superintendent Tim Smith said: "It is important children have someone they trust to talk to.

"This could be a parent, teacher or other adult they know. I would encourage parents to seek advice from agencies, such as the NSPCC, on how to discuss this sensitive issue with children.

"If you think your child or a child you know has suffered from sexual abuse there is help and support available, and I would encourage you to report it to the police. I would also encourage adults who were abused years ago to come forward."

He said Kent Police takes the issue of child abuse very seriously and works with a number of agencies to offer help and guidance.

NSPCC's Colin Peak, regional head of services, said sexual abuse continues to be a scar on society, adding: "It won't heal by itself.

"Our campaign, alongside the work of the police and other agencies, has started to make inroads in giving children the protection they need but there is obviously still a long way to go."

For information on the campaign see www.nspcc.org.uk/underwear.

Family tribute to tragic teen killed in crash

FAMILY of a teenage girl killed after being hit by a car as she walked with her boyfriend last weekend have paid tribute to their "determined, thoughtful and generous" daughter.

Zoe Georgiou, 16, was struck by a silver Mazda in Heath Road, Coxheath, at around 6pm last Saturday and died at the scene.

A pupil of Invicta Grammar School in Maidstone, she played a variety of musical instruments, performed ballet and dance, and belonged to swimming, football and gymnastic clubs.

A family tribute said: "Zoe was a stunningly beautiful young girl. However her greatest asset was her ability to make and stay friends with so many people that she met, evidenced by the enormous number of flowers and letters of tribute being left at the roadside since her death.

"Zoe was much loved and will be dreadfully missed by all her family, friends and indeed everyone that she met. She was a wonderfully thoughtful and generous child who was not only determined to achieve success in her life but who was great fun to be around. Zoe was also enjoying a relationship with a kind and caring boyfriend, Joe, which was bringing out the best in her. Sleep tight Angel, you will never be forgotten."

Dreamland learning centre gets boost

THE team behind ambitious plans to turn the former Dreamland site in Margate into a heritage theme park has received a £25,000 cash boost.

The Dreamland Trust will use the money to open a visitor and learning centre in Dreamland's Grade II-listed amusement arcade in the spring.

The money was raised through an art auction organised by Stuart Atkinson and Kiel Shaw of local firm Fontaine Decorative.

The space will allow people to find out more about the future plans for Dreamland and the restoration project of the Grade II listed Scenic Railway.

The centre's programme will include talks, tours, exhibitions and learning opportunities along with pop-up events and visiting attractions including drive-in movies and vintage vehicle rallies.

The park, which has laid dormant for a number of years, is set to open in 2015 and will feature heritage rides including the Scenic Railway.

Legionnaire's victim agrees £10,000 deal

A HOLIDAYMAKER who contracted the potentially lethal Legionnaire's Disease while in Corfu has won a £10,000 compensation payout.

Car salesman John Degan, 46, from Bexley, said he felt like he was about to die after being struck down by the sickness, which is carried in water droplets and most commonly spread in lakes or air-conditioning units.

Mr Degan contracted the illness after staying at the Matoula Studios and Apartments in September 2011. After returning home he fell ill and had to be rushed to hospital.

He then instructed law firm Irwin Mitchell to discover what caused the illness.

Although holiday firm First Choice did not admit liability, a compensation claim was agreed.

Lawyer Suki Chhokar said: "John lost an alarming amount of weight in a short space of time through his illness and was not able to work for around two months."

First Choice declined to comment.

Sheep killed in floods which swept county

A FARM which breeds Hebridean sheep in the county say 20 were drowned during the floods which swamped Yalding at Christmas.

Roundoak, which is based to the south of Maidstone, specialise in the breeding and sale of the sheep and Highland cows across the county.

But it says 20 sheep were killed when the storms hit the county and flooded Yalding on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. A spokesman said: "It was probably the most challenging (time) since the farm began some eight years ago.

"At Yalding the farm lost about 20 sheep from a flock of 70. It was a distressing sight."

Flooded roads meant the farm was unable to reach the sheep during the peak water levels.

"The animals that died must have been caught in a surge or torrent of water, the others fortunately managed to get away to a little bit of higher ground and survived.

"The surviving flock were rounded and taken back to the farm at Sutton Valence."

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

Lydd Airport back in court for latest appeal

A HIGH Court appeal launched by campaigners fighting to stop expansion at Lydd Airport is due to be heard next Thursday and Friday.

Lydd Airport Action Group submitted the appeal in a bid to quash the Government's decision to allow the airport owners to extend the runway and build a new terminal for 500,000 passengers a year.

The hearing will be heard on January 23 and 24 at the Royal Courts of Justice.

Campaigners are fighting against expansion on nuclear safety grounds. They say they have evidence showing the probability of a plane crash at the Dungeness power plant resulting from airport expansion would be "unacceptably high".



The decision to approve the development was made by government in April last year and was supported by Folkestone MP Damian Collins who said expansion will create jobs.

Cathedral's first all-girl choir take to the stage

A GROUP of 16 girls will on Saturday make history at Canterbury Cathedral in what will be the first public performance of the first female choir in almost 1,000 years of male-only choristers.

The new choir is made up of girls aged 12 to 16 who were selected following auditions which attracted some 40 girls

from local secondary schools.

They will perform for the first time in public on January 25 and will be directed by the cathedral's assistant organist, David Newsholme.

"It is always good to create new ways of making music and this will be an exciting new chapter in the cathedral's story," he said.

...also

Police issues to be aired

POLICE and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes and Ch Con Alan Pughley will address a packed-out meeting in Folkestone on Wednesday.

The sold-out event is the latest Meet the Commissioner meeting, which allows the public to grill the PCC on policing issues.

Budget set for green light

CABINET members at Kent County Council will on Wednesday decide whether to vote through the draft budget for 2014/15 which includes a council tax rise and more spending cuts.

It follows a consultation looking at cutbacks of some £95m over the next year.

Closures for busy A21

MOTORISTS using the A21 face three weeks of carriageway closures and diversions as resurfacing work gets under way on Monday.

Overnight closures will take place on the stretch between Lamberhurst and Flimwell. Work should be completed by February 9.

Flooding woes examined

A REPORT into the response to the Christmas storms and floods will be discussed at County Hall on Wednesday.

Kent County Council members will look at flood risk management, the key issues and the next steps in the wake of problems experienced by flood-hit communities.



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Second welfare report hides nothing, claims KCC leader

KENT County Council leader Paul Carter came out fighting this week after a controversial welfare report – pulled at the end of last year just before it was due to be discussed – re-emerged in an edited version.

The original seemed to lay bare the impacts of the Coalition's welfare reforms on the county.

It was to link the rise in homelessness, an increase in the use of foodbanks, and council tenants falling into rent arrears, with benefit changes.

And that would have put Cllr Carter on a collision course with his Westminster colleagues.

Cllr Carter, however, insisted it was pulled as it had been issued in his name but without his consent and drew the wrong conclusions.

His critics, however, claimed the KCC leader had simply not wanted to be seen disagreeing with the Government – particularly with the authority courting Whitehall in a bid to swell the county's coffers to handle the strain of immigration on Kent.

Cllr Carter insists he had not seen the report ahead of the policy and resources cabinet committee – where it was due to be discussed – despite it bearing his name.

He stressed its conclusions were not "properly evidenced".

But now the report is back. And, as widely predicted, it has taken a somewhat more cautious approach.

Cllr Carter insists, however, nothing is being "swept under the carpet".

He told KoS: "It was in my name and I think there were conclusions being drawn that were frankly wrong. I think when you read the changes that have been made, it is now a balanced report.

"We're not trying to mask the fact there are some worrying trends, as well as some positive trends.

"But virtually everything that's gone in a negative direction was being linked to benefit changes in the first report. It's far too early to make those judgements.

"If we'd drawn the conclusion it was all linked to benefit changes we'd have been trying to solve the wrong problem, because it's not.

"They may be a contributory factor but to badge everything against benefit changes is ridiculous.

"I think any sane person who read the old report, and who has read the new one, will agree it's far more balanced in trying to identify the reasons behind some of the changes."

The new report admits there are problems with rising homelessness, people using temporary accommodation and families using foodbanks.

But instead of blaming welfare reforms, it states these issues could be down to other factors including the state of the economy, cost of living and housing increases.

The main thrust of its argument is that it is "too early to say with certain-

The first version seemed to lay bare the effects of Government welfare reforms and was disowned by Paul Carter, the new version, he tells **Marijke Cox**, is now 'more evenly balanced'



NO U-TURN: Paul Carter, Lib Dem leader Trudy Dean, top right, and Labour leader Gordon Cowan, above right,

WELFARE REFORMS

THE reforms are being brought in to tackle what the Coalition describes as a benefit culture.

It aims to stop people becoming trapped in the welfare system.

The reforms include the universal credit in which six working-age benefits are being merged into one; paid once a month rather than fortnightly or weekly; and paid directly into the claimant's bank account.

The bedroom tax is another of the reforms.

The new rules see housing benefit claimants – living in either council or housing association properties – who are deemed to have too much living space forced to downsize.

Otherwise they have their benefits reduced.

as explained in the first report.

But unlike in December's paper, it states the increase in foodbank use – rising from 191 people helped in 2011/12 to a 7,105 in 2012/13 – may not be a result of the welfare reforms.

The explanation states: "It cannot be said with certainty at this stage whether the increases in foodbank usage is mainly due to welfare reforms as opposed to cost of living increases and the state of the economy."

Quite different to the initial statement in the earlier paper: "Perhaps the most compelling evidence of the impact of the welfare reforms on individuals and families is the sharp increase in people using foodbanks."

Cllr Carter argued foodbanks were not robust enough indicators.

"There weren't any foodbanks two or three years ago," he said.

Referring to homelessness, the first document said a rise of 25 per cent, the new report says a 12 per cent rise.

There is, however, an explanation, with the data collated over a different time period, in the first instance between January and March, and the other from January to October.

But that doesn't take away the fact

that homelessness is on the rise.

Is it a result of the welfare reforms? Cllr Carter doesn't think so: "That's a result of a significant housing shortage in the southern half of the country and in Kent where frankly we're not building enough homes to cope with migration and indigenous growth."

Critics of Cllr Carter's decision to pull the report accused him of not wanting to be seen to be disagreeing with the Government, something the leader told this newspaper was "utter rubbish".

But his opponents stressed there were more important matters to contend with, such as addressing the problems of poverty.

Leader of the Labour group at KCC, Gordon Cowan, insisted the problems were due to welfare reforms, despite the report suggesting other factors.

He said: "These reforms have absolutely devastated the people and communities down on the ground.

"For the first time they have to pay council tax, bedroom tax and benefits are being cut. Quite frankly, when you get benefits you get the minimum required to live on – taking that away, giving them even less, causes more problems for the future."

Leader of the Lib Dems at County Hall, Trudy Dean, admitted she was also concerned.

"The issue for me is what pressure we can put on the Government to try and change the welfare reforms or soften the impacts," she said.

"What came out in the report is no surprise to anyone."

She said Cllr Carter pulling the paper had at least put the issue in the spotlight.

She stressed her party believes the welfare changes are right, but criticised the roll-out of the reforms, saying they should have been brought in more slowly or staggered.

"You have to wonder why he pulled it," added Labour's Cllr Cowan. "Was it because it didn't agree with the Coalition's welfare reforms?"

"First and foremost, I'd never let a report go out in my name without reading it first.

"Instead he used his power to completely rip it off the table arguing he needed a more balanced report.

"But whose view is this report then?"

Cllr Carter said the first paper had been written by a junior officer.

Quite why a junior was allowed to compile a document dealing with such a contentious issue remains to be seen.

"I've no idea," admitted Cllr Carter.

He added: "The good news is unemployment is coming down and the economy is starting to show signs of starting to come out of the recession, therefore let's put all of the various changes that are identified in the paper to the causal link and then start to work on where things are going worryingly the wrong way and see what we are collectively going to do about it to help support communities."

Freemasonry: An 'enjoyable hobby' or dark, secret society?

After years of weaving a web of intrigue about just what they do and know, Freemasons claim people have the wrong idea about them. In an effort to shed a little light, they invited reporter **Joe Bill** to take a look around one of the county's most important lodges to try and find out just what the 'brotherhood' is all about...

STRANGE handshakes, bizarre initiation ceremonies and deep secrets passed down through the generations; the common perception of the Freemasons tends to be well lodged in our collective psyche.

Certainly, the mystique which surrounds it does the organisation no harm at all.

After all, where there comes secrecy comes a sometimes overpowering desire to learn more.

But where once prospective members had to be invited to join – and even then run the risk of being 'black-balled' and thus rejected – today the application process appears to be a little more open.

Or, at least, that's what they'd like us to believe, after inviting us to peer behind the curtain at one of the county's biggest lodges.

This is very much a stage-managed visit; with access granted only to media-savvy masons and lots of hints that by expressing an interest, a big book of juicy secrets is opened to you.

The big question, of course, is just who are the Freemasons, and by joining them what do you become involved in?

Although, perhaps the bigger question is: Are they going to tell us?

If we are to believe it on face value, it is little more than a glorified gentlemen's club with a penchant for dressing up and a desire to donate to local charities.

A website promoting its Kent work describes it thus: "It is a society of men concerned with moral and spiritual values.

"It means different things to each of those who join. For some it's about making new friends and acquaintances. For others it's about working together to help deserving causes. But for them all, it is an enjoyable hobby."

But legend suggests far more to it than that...of them wielding enormous influence in today's society and even of being guardians of earth-shattering secrets.

"I think some people have the wrong idea about Freemasons," said Roger Odd who goes by the rather

grand title of Deputy Provincial Grandmaster.

"There is a lot of intrigue and lot of history about Freemasonry. Much of which we ourselves are only just discovering."

The mystery surrounding it has been compounded over the years by myths and conjecture circulated within popular culture and a public who like nothing more than to speculate. Indeed, even this article fans the flames of what 'might be' behind the Freemasons.

Anxiety about the organisation is, as a consequence, rife. It's not helped by being very much a men-only organisation – which sits uncomfortably in the all-inclusive age we live in.

Mr Odd has been a mason for more than 40 years and is adept at discussing the organisation's purpose while simultaneously keeping his cards practically vacuum-packed to his chest.

Masonic lodges – the individual 'clubs' which make up the Freemason movement – can be found in the vast majority of our towns and cities – and, in the shadow of its mighty cathedral, Canterbury is no different.

Its lodge is a non-descript red-brick building just yards from Westgate Towers in St Peter's Street. Its cornerstone was laid in 1880 and today stepping through its doors ushers you into a world of rather ornate splendour.

To the untrained eye it appears to have the flourishes of a place of worship or courtroom. To the trained eye it is probably designed to hint a little at both.

The seats which line the wall are covered in crimson velvet; candles and staffs are dotted around the room. On the walls are the symbols of the various lodges which belong to what is dubbed the Masonic Province of East Kent; of which this is 'head office'.

Sat on a chequered carpet in the centre of the large room is a brown wooden box, roughly one-metre square, depicting Jacob's Ladder; a tale from the Old Testament which portrays it as a route to Heaven.

It would hint at an affinity with Christianity – yet faith is required only as a concept rather than of a particular persuasion.



OPENING UP: Deputy Provincial Grand Master Roger Odd and some of the many masonic symbols and designs decorating the lodge's wooden panelled interior at its site in Canterbury



“ There have been senior Freemasons who have been high up in the Church. A former Archbishop of Canterbury was a very high Freemason ”

Roger Odd,
on the mason's influential members

“You have to be a believer that there is a supreme being,” explains Mr Odd of what is required of any future member. “In other words that there is a God.

“We don't allow atheists in, but we allow in people who are of any religion whatsoever. I sometimes go to a lodge in Ipswich where they have people of several different faiths. Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Jews and Christians are all members.

“They all have a common belief in a supreme being and that allows us to have morals that we all have a particular standard with.”

This building has become the unofficial centre of much of the county's masonic activities.

The east Kent 'province' stretches as far as Gravesend to Margate, and Cranbrook to Dymchurch.

Across Kent there are some 7,000 Freemasons – drawn from 185 different lodges.

There are some 200,000 members across England and Wales and an estimated six million worldwide.

The common theory is that by being a Freemason you get career advantages and access to a network of opportunity and privilege.

Such notions are rather compounded by recurring stories making national headlines.

Just this week, the Independent exposed what it claimed was a “secret network of Freemasons used by organised crime gangs to corrupt the criminal justice system”.

It claimed underworld syndicates used their contacts in the Freemasons to “recruit corrupted offices” inside Scotland Yard.

Retired pharmacist Mr Odd is quick to deny there is any morally-suspect behaviour the brotherhood is involved in.

He has held high positions within both the masons and the pharmaceutical sector, but insists members are taken from all walks of life; “from bin men to bishops” as he puts it.

“If someone came to me,” he explains, “and said ‘I'm a Freemason you've got to help me’, I'd probably react in exactly the opposite way. You cannot use your Freemasonry for doing that.

“But if someone was in difficulties and was in need of some plumbing or something, inevitably you would know somebody who is a Freemason who you can ask to help. In exactly the same way you would with a next door neighbour.

“We don't ‘protect’ our own. If someone is bad, I assure you they are dealt with.

“We all have morals and standards and a code of conduct within the country we live.

“We are not encouraging people to break laws because we still have the rules of that country to work to.

“There are people who feel very

strongly about Freemasonry. I think they are nervous and worried about what Freemasons do and what they are.

“There have been some incidents with Freemasonry that we are not proud of, not so much in this country, but in Italy for example there have been lots of connections with the Mafia.

“But there are bad eggs in every organisation whether it is in government, journalism or whatever.

“It is up to that organisation to try and get rid of them. We have a very strict code of conduct and if somebody breaks that code I assure you they are dealt with severely.”

Opening their doors to try and dispel the mystique they themselves encourage is something they do on a fairly regular basis, yet the Freemasons have decided 2014 is to be a year they interact more with the public.

And, of course, in a world where there is an ever increasing demand on our time, they are aware of the need to remind would-be members they should come along and see if it's for them.

In times gone by, the masons approached their members. Now they accept applications, although applying is no guarantee you'll pass the vetting process.

Adds Mr Odd: “It's not a process of approaching new members anymore, which is how it used to be in the past, it's the case that we now publicise it. If people are interested and they feel they'd like to join they can come and ask and find out some information.

“Not everybody is going to like Freemasonry. But if you have an interest, our point is, go and ask.

“We want to be part of the community. We've heard comments from people questioning what we are doing. I think after the Second World War the masons became very secret and very insular.

“But now we are thinking ‘why have we got to hide everything under a bushel?’.

“We are very proud of the work we do for charity.”

In pursuit of an answer as to what the Freemasons actually do, charity is about the only thing they will definitely admit to. It is understood all masons are expected to dig deep to fund charitable endeavours

Adds Mr Odd: “Did you know that the amount of money the masons give to the community is only second to the lottery?

“The hospices, Kent Air Ambulance, lots of charities receive something every year and they are pleased that we do it.

“We have given money for the training of young people and some into the research into various diseases, in fact, we've just given £2.5 million to the Royal College of Surgeons.

“We have helped apprentice stonemasons at Canterbury Cathedral and, of course, we help individuals in distress. Some are Freemasons but we also realise we have to help people in the community that are not Freemasons.”

To get a hint of why the Freemasons keep up a veil of secrecy, it is perhaps worth looking back in time to its very creation.

Its roots lie in the stonemasons dating back to the 17th century – which continues to be reflected in the Freemasonry logo, which features a



IN NUMBERS...

7,000

Number of members in Kent

185

Number of county's lodges

300

Number of years Freemasonry has existed in UK come 2017

4.1 million

Members in USA in 1960

1.3 million

Members in USA in 2012

6 million

Members worldwide today

164

Countries where lodges operate

33rd

Highest level Freemason can attain

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square and compass; the tools of the stonemason's trade.

The stonemasons, so legend has it, would have local fraternities which regulated the qualifications of masons and their interaction with authorities and clients.

Over the years, the perception is that this was broadened out to encompass a vast array of professions.

Mr Odd said: "The stonemasons used to gather together to talk about the various tools of the trade.

"That is perhaps where the word secret starts creeping in. But have you ever tried to ask a plumber or another trade person exactly how they do their job?"

He added: "People may ask you how you do something and we say 'well we can show you a little bit but not everything' because they are the tools of the trade. And that is the same in Freemasonry."

Members demonstrate their seniority by the type of gloves and aprons they wear at meetings, adding gold chains and various colours to highlight the position they hold.

The rumours of rituals are also true, except they are known as "playlets". Masons act out stories that teach morals and standards of behaviour that all members should practice. It is from these playlets, they claim, that rituals and initiation ceremonies for new members are born.

But what exactly? All they will say is they are "similar to a traditional church ceremony" but remain something confided in only to members.

Says Mr Odd: "It's the same with magicians; you ask them to tell you a trick and they say no. You have to join the Magic Circle and then they show you how. That's the magic if you like, which makes Freemasonry special."

There is more than a hint of religious fervour to the building and the imagery used by the masons.

So how does the movement fit with the Church?

"The Church has always been a bit apprehensive to Freemasonry," admits Mr Odd, "because it depicts some of the stories in the Bible from the Old Testament. It can be seen to be quasi-religious – stepping on their religious ground – though it isn't.

"But there have been some very senior Freemasons who have been high up in the Church. A past Archbishop of Canterbury was a very high Freemason."

Other famous members include everyone from Winston Churchill to Mozart, John Wayne to Nat King Cole. The Duke of Kent has been the UK Grandmaster for almost 50 years.

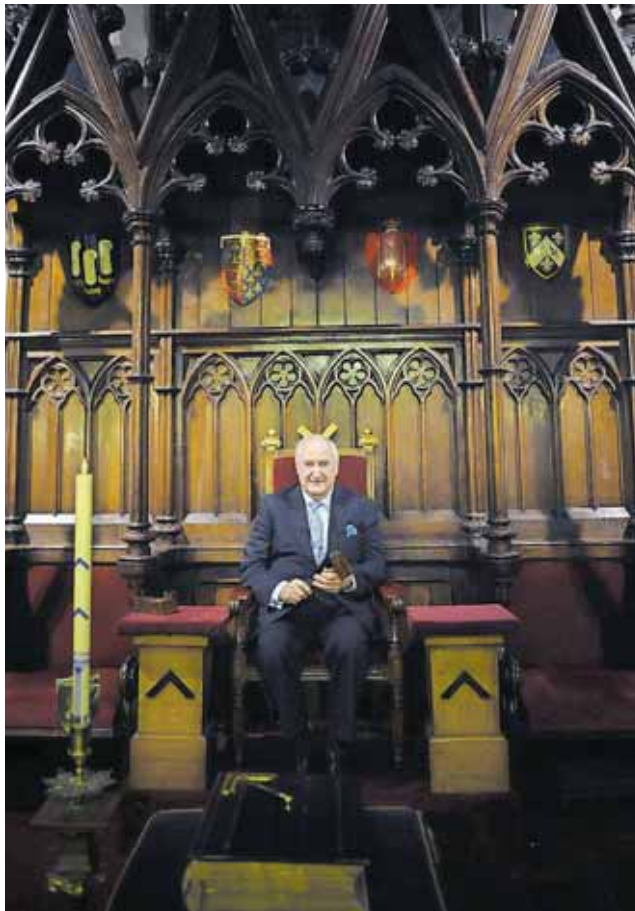
Trying to gauge opposition to the group is surprisingly difficult.

Whether it was academics, feminists or members of similar organisations, there was a lack of appetite to offer any sort of alternative view.

Now that could be simply a case of a lack of knowledge of what the masons do, or, is it, as the conspiracy folk would have you believe, a sign something more influential is afoot?

Certainly, over the decades, there have been a number of concerns aired about the impact of the Freemason movement on the police force nationwide; although no suggestion the issue carries influence in Kent.

Similar to the masons, the Rotary Club also exists across the world raising money for charity. They also have



NO DOUBT: Roger Odd denied any undue influence from those who belong to the 'brotherhood' but admitted they would assist one another

a selective process for members and operate in small local groups, under one united banner.

The Isle of Thanet Sunrise Rotary Club was one of the first to accept women members and former president Dale Windridge is proud that Rotary has moved on.

He said: "The Rotary position is that all clubs should be mixed and that it is no longer an 'old gentleman's club'.

"Our club was one of the first to be mixed and I can also say that given the choice I would rather be in a mixed club. I think men and women behave better, and combined you get the strengths from both.

"To be honest, some of our best members are women."

However, Mr Windridge doesn't believe that groups like the masons should be criticised for their approach.

He added: "I'm not a mason so I cannot comment on them, but personally I think there should be a choice when it comes to mixed clubs. Sometimes men want to spend more time with men and women want to spend more time with women.

"I don't think any club, including golf clubs, should be forced into a direction they don't want to go because of Government or EU pressure."

The recruitment drive continues – even claiming to have developed links

with the University of Kent and dropping the age of entry from 21 to 18.

Kent Museum of Freemasonry trustee, and Canterbury lodge member, Tony Eldridge says it is important to bring new blood into the group. He said: "We've set up a scheme with the university which could be a rich vein of introductions to us.

"We are making sure they know we are open to membership and a lodge in Canterbury has been earmarked to build connections with the institution. The master of that particular lodge lectures there."

Not that the university appeared aware of any such arrangement. It told us: "The university is not involved in any scheme or any relationship with the Freemasons."

The museum has been a very public calling card of the organisation in Canterbury. Adds Mr Eldridge: "The museum opened in the 1930s but it was refurbished two years ago. We've worked hard to make it modern and accessible."

Freemasonry uses the secrecy to its benefit – happy for common perception of it being an exclusive, influential, club. The truth, well, that's a little harder to come by. And, after all, if we knew, where would the fun be?

■ **What do you think? Write to The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth TN25 6SS or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.**

Rolled up trouser legs and those 'secret' handshakes

OF all the popular stories about the Freemasons, the most popular is surely of the secret handshake – a mix of applied pressure which allows members to identify one another without others being aware.

That, and rolling your trouser leg up.

So just what is the truth?

A spokesman for the East Kent Province explained: "Sorry to disappoint you, but there is actually no such thing as a secret handshake, it's a myth.

"Within our ritual dramas there is a grip exchanged at each level which is one of the traditional means of recognition. This is supposed to have allowed a qualified stonemason to make himself known even in the gloomy interior of a medieval building.

"These days all Freemasons

are encouraged to be open and enthusiastic about their membership, so if you want to know if someone's a Freemason it's very simple – just ask him."

The good news, however, is that they do roll their trousers up. But why?

"The honest answer is that nobody really knows for sure.

"There are many opinions within and outside Freemasonry as to the reason, but all we do know that is it is one of the traditions whose origins have been lost over time.

"The only time a Freemason is required to bare his knee is during his progression through each of the three degree ceremonies which introduce him to different aspects of masonic philosophy."

So that's all clear then.

Mystique of the masons still has grip on popular culture



LAMPOONED: The Simpsons has taken a swipe at secret societies

AUTHOR of the Da Vinci Code, Dan Brown, used the Freemasons at the very heart of his follow-up to his global smash – The Lost Symbol.

They were also alluded to in the Da Vinci Code as protectors of the secret of the Holy Grail.

Deputy Provincial Grandmaster Roger Odd is unmoved by the spotlight it casts on the group.

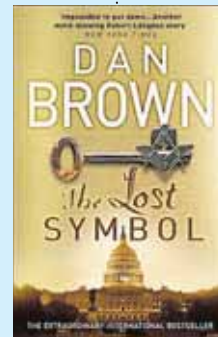
He said: "They have a negative effect on some people. I have read the books of Dan Brown and at first I have thought that I didn't like what he was saying. But actually if you read it in context he is just talking about various organisations.

"Dan Brown is trying to sell books and he is into mystery and secrecy and that's what he is about. I don't feel unhappy about what he has said.

But it is unfortunate when people take it out of context."

The Freemasons were also lampooned by America's favourite dysfunctional family The Simpsons, when Homer attempts to join the ancient Stonecutters. He struggles with the initiation ceremony – which involves being

spanked with wooden paddles – and then causes the group to disband when he destroys an ancient parchment by using it to clean his mouth after a meal.





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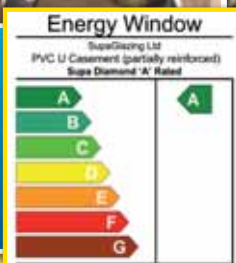
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Pressure for



IT IS either a timely solution to our reliance on Middle East oil, or the biggest threat to our environment in a generation.

Either way, the debate over fracking shows no sign of easing after the Government this week made its most outspoken defence yet of the practice it once banned for fear it caused earthquakes and, critics claim, could contaminate water supplies.

Fracking involves blasting water and rock-dissolving fluids underground at high pressure to break apart rocks and releasing shale gas which is then pumped to the surface.

In a move which split opinion, Prime Minister David Cameron dangled a carrot in front of cash-strapped local authorities promising major cash incentives if they gave it a go.

Critics in Kent - a key battleground in the fracking dispute - described it as nothing more than bribery.

Supporters, on the other hand, argued it would help pave the way for cheaper gas bills and a secure energy supply in Britain.

While the debate raged, a Kent geologist stepped in, calling for hydraulic fracturing - or fracking as it is commonly known - to be conducted offshore.

The geological consultant, Dr Alasdair Bruce, who is also a Thanet councillor, told KoS that taking the controversial method of shale gas extraction out to sea could ease public resistance and reduce the associated risks.

It is, perhaps, the first glimmer of hope there could be a way of resolving the dispute.

But he admitted cost restrictions would be the fly in the ointment with offshore drilling more expensive than on-shore.

The cause of severe environmental woes or the answer to our energy prayers? Kent is a key battleground in the dispute over controversial fracking as **Marijke Cox** reports

"It may be cost prohibitive but it's certainly worth looking at," he said.

"We need a proper debate, without all the hype - with facts and not rumour."

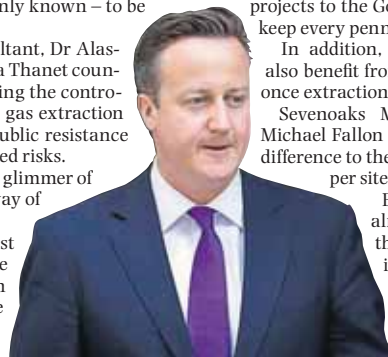
The prime minister this week told local authorities that instead of handing over 50 per cent of business rates collected from such projects to the Government, they will get to keep every penny.

In addition, local communities would also benefit from one per cent of revenues once extraction is under way.

Sevenoaks MP and energy minister Michael Fallon said it would make a huge difference to the economy with up to £10m per site for developers to share out.

For cash-strapped councils, already forced to tighten their belts due to deep spending cuts, it could be seen as the silver lining to what is a widely scorned extraction method.

Dover and Deal in par-



fracking decision mounts



THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR:
Protesters fear fracking causes earthquakes and could contaminate water supplies

ticular are in the spotlight with planning applications for exploratory borehole drilling to search for methane in Shepherdswell, Guston and Tilmanstone previously submitted by Coastal Oil and Gas Limited.

Overwhelming opposition by local people meant they were withdrawn, but that's not to say they won't return.

Cowden near Tunbridge Wells has already seen test drilling taking place, in 2010, by energy company Cuadrilla – the firm behind the drilling in Blackpool which is believed to have been responsible for two minor earthquakes; events which forced the Government to put a temporary ban on the extraction method.

The site in Cowden and another in Woodnesborough, near Sandwich, are already licensed for exploration for oil and gas reserves.

Dr Bruce, who runs consultancy firm Rock-Doc Ltd, said money for incentives should not form any part of the debate.

"If it's a good thing then incentives aren't needed," he said.

"All that does it muddy the waters. We need to decide this on merit."

He also pointed out there was every chance future governments would alter grants to take into account the fracking money, cutting budgets elsewhere.

"They wouldn't ever be able to ringfence that money," he added.

Dr Bruce said not all councils would benefit from the cash either but may well be at risk from the negative impacts of fracking.

"Take Thanet council. This incentive will be of no benefit. We've got no material under our feet so we won't be able to get the money, but our ground water comes from other areas impacted by fracking, like Deal and Dover.

"In Dover and Deal, they could get money

because they have the gas and that's where the extraction would take place."

It would mean Thanet having no say over the decision whether or not to allow fracking yet could be vulnerable to the risks.

He adds: "We need a proper debate, with precautionary principles everywhere, weighed up against the risks and the benefits."

But while Dr Bruce is remaining cautious, others are taking a more eager approach.

Sevenoaks MP Mr Fallon says the incentives could provide the economy with a huge boost.

He has always insisted that shale gas has the

potential to provide the UK with greater energy security, growth and jobs.

He said: "We are encouraging safe and environmentally sound exploration to determine this potential. Fracturing for shale gas will only be done in a safe and environmentally sound way – and for the benefit of the local community as well as the country."

No consent has yet been granted for hydraulic fracturing in the UK, but licences are in place, however, for exploratory drilling to take place for oil and gas reserves.

Ian Driver, Green Party councillor and par-

liamentary hopeful for South Thanet, said the latest announcement was "fracking bribery".

"The Government is preparing to hand out cash sweeteners and inducements in advance of the Petroleum Exploration and Development Licensing (PEDL) round, taking place later this year," he said.

He warned that maps produced by the Department of Energy and Climate Change show "every last square inch of Kent's land will be

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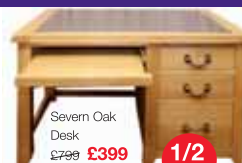
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brought under the PEDL licensing scheme”.

Cllr Driver said it would allow companies such as Cuadrilla – the company with the high-profile drilling site in Balcombe in Sussex – to purchase exploration rights anywhere in the county, provided they have permission from the landowner.

“The Government predicts a strong interest in the licence sales, especially in the south east,” he said.

He also said there was compelling evidence emerging in the US and Australia to suggest fracking can never be carried out safely.

“Even the Government’s own environmental assessment highlights the dangers of fracking, including the astronomical demand for billions of cubic metres of water – much of which will become polluted by the extraction process – the danger to underground drinking water supplies, the huge number of additional vehicle movements and congestion in the countryside – where many drilling rigs will be located – and the noise and atmospheric pollution associated with this process.

“I expect to see many more examples of people power and community opposition developing across Kent and the rest of south east England as the new licences are sold and planning applications to drill are submitted.

“Whatever the Government might say, and no matter how much it tries to bribe communities, most people don’t want their villages and towns devastated by fracking, or the security of their water supplies put at risk.”

Geologist Dr Bruce said while technology was improving, there



Could shale gas really lead to cheaper energy bills?

FRACKING is the process of extracting natural shale gas by blasting water and rock-dissolving fluids into the ground to break apart rocks and release the gas.

It is banned in South Africa and France but has taken off in the US. So far only exploratory work has taken place but fears are that it could lead to fracking.

The Government says it should be encouraged and will lead to

less reliance on unstable countries for oil and cheaper energy bills.

However, opponents say it increases greenhouse gas emissions, contaminates water supplies and can cause earthquakes.

Questions have also been raised about whether we have enough water to cater for a fracking revolution in this county. Water is crucial in the fracking

process, but Kent is already deemed a “water-stressed” county with an official drought in 2012.

Companies such as Cuadrilla, which has a licence to carry out exploratory drilling in Kent, says its wells are designed with stringent safety measures and have been examined independently and by the Health and Safety Executive.

were still potential risks to water supplies.

“The more this looks like it’s a good way of getting energy – for the short-term at least – out of the ground, the technology will increase and get better and better and more reliable.

“Some of the former problems in America are now behind us. None-

theless, it’s a small factor that needs to be put into the debate.”

Dr Bruce has put forward the suggestion to his local MPs to consider offshore drilling – but admitted cost was a drawback.

“The only reason they’re looking at fracking at the moment is because of the cost of fuel and gas,” he said.

“Were we awash with cheap gas from the North Sea we wouldn’t even be looking at this process, so it’s all cost driven.

“There could well conceivably come a point where it works really well and they’ll say, well we’ll subsidise the offshore drilling from the land work because it’s much easi-

er to drill on land, and have a look at some of the target rocks offshore.”

He admitted, however, the Government was “clearly keen” to get fracking going and looking into offshore would take some time.

The majority of Kent’s MPs are on board with the technique – in all cases as long as the safety and risk factors are examined in detail.

Conservative MP Charlie Elphicke, who represents Dover and Deal, says fracking could be a “huge opportunity” to reduce electricity bills and create jobs.

“However,” he said, “It’s very important it is safe and assurances are given that our water tables are not contaminated and there are no problems with ground stability.”

David Cameron’s calls came as French company Total confirmed plans to invest about £30m to help drill exploratory wells in Lincolnshire.

He stressed that nothing would go ahead if there were environmental dangers.

The PM said: “Shale is important for our country. It could bring 74,000 jobs, over £3bn of investment, give us cheaper energy for the future, and increase our energy security.”

Speaking to KoS last year he said shale needed to be part of the UK’s energy industry.

“We have to recognise that a fracking revolution has taken place in the US and we ought to be thinking about it here.

“Recent reports have shown we may have twice as much shale gas as previously thought and so this is an industry we should be encouraging.

“But we want to make sure it’s an industry we encourage for community benefit as well.”

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PAWS FOR THOUGHT:
Wildwood Trust manager
Peter Smith is always
looking out for his animals

Wildlife boss giving native animals a second chance

Wildwood Trust manager Peter Smith is dedicated to protecting wildlife and reintroducing many of our lost British species. He outlines his ambitious and exciting plans for the future to reporter **Joe Bill...**

WHEN you think of the stereotypical nature enthusiast with a passion for protecting endangered species and safeguarding the natural environment, a former boxer turned nightclub bouncer, charity chief and revolutionary economist, is unlikely to be the image which springs to mind.

Yet Peter Smith is the unorthodox man at the helm of the Wildwood Trust – a charity dedicated to the conservation and re-introduction of British wildlife.

It also runs what is rapidly becoming one of the county's most popular wildlife parks.

The idea of the park is not only to educate, explained Mr Smith, but to take visitors back to a time when the UK was rich in animal species; from wolves to wild horses and from lynx to lizards.

Set in Wealden Forest between Canterbury and Herne Bay, the Wildwood Trust began life as a small nature reserve almost 30 years ago, created by a former director of tree supplier English Woodlands.

It then began gathering a small collection of animals and, as Brambles, established a reputation for itself as a small scale zoo.

By 1999, and following some sizeable investment, it became the Wildwood Discovery Centre.

It was not all plain sailing, however, and within three years the business was failing to break even and the decision was taken to become a charity – in which the Wildwood Trust was born.

Kent businessman Ken West and Peter Smith, a conservation scientist with a proven track record of charity management, stepped forward to save the park.

Today it is one of the most vibrant in the county – welcoming a steady flow of visitors, school parties and establishing itself as a vocal exponent of the benefits of a flourishing British wildlife scene.

From some 30,000 visitors in 2002 it now attracts 130,000.

Mr Smith explains: "The park was not doing very well financially, it was losing money hand over fist.

"Ken West is a self-made man and a very good businessman. He was a trustee of Kent Wildlife Trust and while I was working there we had this mad idea to take over Wildwood.

"My background is as a very successful charity manager. I had worked for a number of charities and turned them around.

"At the Kent Wildlife Trust I helped to put the systems in place to quadruple their income and at Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust I helped to treble their income while I was there."

The Wildwood charity has since grown into a 40-acre site producing

turnover that has risen from £160,000-per-year to £1.6 million.

But building the park was never about money.

Explains the 43-year-old: "It came out of a wish to do charitable things and to save wildlife, not to build a zoo.

"We wanted to obtain the skills for managing re-introduction projects and large scale habitat restoration using animals like beavers and wild horses."

Mr Smith, who is about to become a father for the second time, was one of the key players in the successful project to reintroduce the European

beaver to a piece of marshland known as Ham Fen, near Sandwich, during the 2000s.

The beavers were placed there to help manage the land by keeping the waterways clear, coppicing trees and controlling vegetation, more than 100 years since they were hunted to the brink of extinction.

But, as Mr Smith explained, these projects cannot take place without the healthy running of the park.

He said: "We derive our money from people visiting us. We have become very popular because we try to show off the animals in a nice way and we have some really good charitable objectives."

"We do such good work that people like to be associated with it. They join as members and that is where we get our money. It's our membership that is key, not our gate receipts."

And the membership is by no means expensive. For £7 a month, a family can gain limitless access to the park which normally costs just a few pence under £10 for a single adult entry.

When he first arrived, the self-proclaimed "nerd" set about acquiring old computers and rebuilding them into modern machines able to run a membership database "at no cost to the charity".

And it is this entrepreneurial streak that Mr Smith continues to use, introducing the sponsorship, or adoption if you will, of certain Wildwood animals and installing a children's education and fun centre.

He said: "Wildwood has grown from a solid understanding of busi-

“ We do such good work that people like to be associated with it. They join as members and that is where we get our money. It's our membership that's key ”

Peter Smith,
Manager of Wildwood Trust

ness and the will to educate people and to get them involved in helping other wildlife organisations."

Under Mr Smith, the Wildwood Trust team has already outlined two prospective sites for new parks – one in Glasgow and another in Devon – to continue their battle to save British nature.

"We have continued to grow steadily over the years. And the plan is to get more land and create more Wildwoods elsewhere," he explains

Having achieved an MBA (Master of Business Administration) as well as an MSC qualification in market-

ing, the ecologist was one of the first to complete a conservation biology course at the University of Kent's successful Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE).

The institution is well known for the scientific research of its alumni into nature and conservation and the impact of humanity on the wild.

Originally from Northumberland, Mr Smith moved to Kent to study at the DICE. His career path then kept him here.

He said: "I wanted to work with wildlife and I initially studied medical biochemistry at university in Bir-

mingham to learn about nature and how it works. I always thought I was going to have a scientific career.

"But when I got to the point of becoming a scientist, I didn't want all the politics that came with it.

"Science is an incredibly arcane world and incredibly nepotistic in some ways. And I just wanted to save nature.

"So when the conservation biology course at Canterbury opened, I jumped. It was a brand new science, there was no way to study nature conservation science in that detail anywhere else. That was the first



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Pictures: ADY KERRY

“ We have been working for a number of years to bring the European brown bear to Wildwood, and it looks like it’s going to happen very soon ”

Peter Smith,
Manager of Wildwood Trust

actly what would have been roaming our shores less than 1,000 years ago – with one very ferocious attraction due for arrival soon.

“We have been working for a number of years to bring the European brown bear to Wildwood, and it looks like it is going to happen in the near future.”

The reintroduction programmes are a top priority for Mr Smith. He is backing a group of scientists looking to re-populate Scottish highlands with the lynx, for example.

He explains: “There is no reason not to introduce the lynx because they are not a danger to humans. They are a danger to sheep, but we shouldn’t be farming these upland areas.”

Mr Smith explained there are areas in the Scottish forests where there are too many deer, partly because keepers are breeding them to be hunted as game and partly because there are now no natural carnivores left in Britain.

PAGE 22 »

place to do it so it was all very avant garde at the time.”

Unfortunately, having already studied for a number of years and coupled with the news that his coal mining father had lost his job, he was left with a cash flow problem.

He said: “I went to the library and studied the ways I could possibly get money to go there (DICE).”

“My parents weren’t rich and my father was going through the miners’ strike and was made unemployed while I was at university.

“So I decided I would pay my way by becoming a bouncer. Fortunately my other talent was that I was actually an amateur boxer and I had a second degree black belt in taekwondo.”

So he would spend his day researching how to save animals and nature while at night he was throwing drunken revellers out of the local student union bar.

“But I was a good bouncer because I didn’t beat people up and I wasn’t malicious. I didn’t have an axe to grind, but I wouldn’t say that for all the bouncers I worked with.”

Back to the present day and Wild-

wood is relentless in its green approach to sustainability.

Mr Smith has introduced solar panels onto the main buildings to produce electricity and heat water for the showers and toilet blocks. And they have also erected a 20kw wind turbine on site to generate power for the needs of the 50 permanent employees and the canteen.

But it is the animals at the park that get the best treatment.

There are more than 200 animals, native to Britain, set in the ancient woodland – many of which are critically endangered.

“Look at the European bison,” he reflects. “They came so close to extinction. There were less than 100 left in the world. But just after the First World War a few scientists had the foresight to save that beautiful animal. It has walked the Earth for millions of years and played a very important function and we nearly snuffed it out. There are now 3,500 of them in nature reserves and we are honoured to have three males here.”

The park displays species that most will recognise as native to Britain such as the badger or the fox, but Mr Smith is keen to show the public ex-

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He adds: "Lynx disperse deer. It's not that they kill many, it's just that they move them on. That makes the grazing pressure light enough for the re-growth of all those lovely Caledonian wooded habitats we used to have. So reintroducing the lynx would be a good thing."

Admitting not everyone agrees with his theory, he firmly believes he has found the best way to end the disappearance of the countryside.

He explains: "The biggest problem in nature conservation is land ownership. How can you get hold of land for nature conservation? You can't, it costs a fortune. And the more money you raise for conservation, guess what happens, the land price goes up."

"No matter how much money nature conservations earn, or how much money the Government sets aside for nature conservation, it isn't saving wildlife."

To halt the decline, Mr Smith said a classic economic philosophy worked out by the likes of John Maynard Keynes and David Ricardo, and considered by Winston Churchill, should be deployed.

"We need a system where we have a land value tax," he explains, "so we tax people's land rather than their income; that would solve the problem easily and wouldn't hurt the economy."

"Taxing all of nature's assets, like oil, coal and the ability to pollute will mean that hurting nature is expensive because it's taxed."

"It would mean we would not use the nature we don't need to. People will develop industries to use less water, less land, less coal, less oil and this would work perfectly."

"The way things are now there will be no land left. There is so much money to be made by owning land, everybody wants a piece of it and no one wants to leave it alone."

Mr Smith also has an axe to grind with Government subsidising farmers to bring rough areas of land into food production while disregarding the impact on British wildlife.

He said: "Farmers get paid billions of pounds a year in subsidies to use marginal land that is really of no economic worth."

"I am talking about upland sheep farming, rocky areas, river valleys and flood plains that we shouldn't be farming anyway. We actually spend more money to get food off of it, than its worth."

"If we bring about 30 per cent of the marginal land out of production, we could restore all of the nature we need and have beautiful habitats and eco-systems."

Having worked at the wildlife trusts of Scotland, Gloucestershire and Kent, Mr Smith considers himself perfectly placed to give expert opinion on both wildlife and the state of the country's nature conservation.

He featured on BBC's popular Winterwatch wildlife programme and is no stranger to providing expert comment on both local and national issues.

He said: "Why do the BBC like me? It's not because I am particularly interesting or tell good stories, it's because I am utterly, 100 per cent dedicated to protecting wildlife and humanity."

While there is no denying Mr Smith is extremely confident, he is not brash or overbearing – insisting that in-

forming me his IQ is an impressive 189 is not showing off, merely underlining that he should be listened to.

Diagnosed with some traits of autism as a child, he believes his determined and unrelenting nature has driven him to research and discover the past and future of British wildlife in microscopic detail.

He said: "I have little emotional intelligence, so I am not very good at keeping people happy all the time, but I am good at what I do."

His talks to visitors in the park and their internet reviews are proof enough that his enthusiasm is infectious, and as he will tell you, the numbers of people that keep coming back don't lie.

Mr Smith's push to get the European beaver, the British red squirrel and Scottish wildcat show his determination to give native animals a second chance on these shores, while Wildwood's captive breeding and release programme for the British water vole has been described as "species saving".

But Mr Smith says there is no limit to what the Wildwood Trust can achieve.

He added: "Nature needs animals to shape it. And if you don't have animals shaping nature, the plants don't grow in the right way and you have much less insects, birds, fungus, plants, flowers and bees."

"Everything depends on a complexity of nature. Britain needs big herbivores munching, beavers creating wetlands and wild horses managing grass areas – all sorts of complex, wild eco-systems."

"And that's why we wanted to create Wildwood, because other wildlife trusts were a little too conservative for those grand visions. But I am not."

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per year

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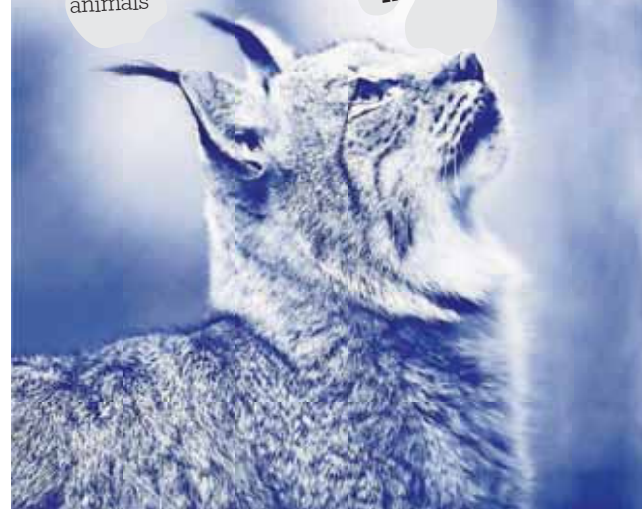
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Thousands of free tickets to top tourist attractions up for grabs

BIG WEEKEND

Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th March 2014

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

MORE than 25,000 free tickets to the county's top tourist attractions will be up for grabs next month as the Kent Big Weekend returns once again.

More than 112 visitor attractions are offering the tickets which are allocated to local residents who enter a special ballot.

The website – www.kentbigweekend.co.uk – goes live on Monday, February 3, and will remain open until February 24. During that time, all available tickets will be advertised allowing users to apply for a limited number of free tickets, limited to two per household.

Once the ballot is closed the tickets will be allocated and the lucky winners notified.

Tickets will be valid for the week-

end of March 29-30 – which includes Mothering Sunday.

For the attractions taking part, it is the chance to cash in early in the season – and to spread the word to locals who can then recommend them to friends and family.

The countywide event, organised by tourism champion Visit Kent will also mark the start of English Tourism Week in the county highlighting the importance of tourism as one of the fastest growing sectors in the national economy.

The county's tourism and hospitality businesses contribute more than £3.4 billion a year to the Kent economy and support 64,600 jobs.

This spring's Kent Big Weekend features many opportunities to get out and about in some of the county's finest scenery or enjoy a range of sporting activities from watersports, cycling and golf to experiencing high-speed thrills on a karting track.

History fans can uncover the secrets



OPENING ITS DOORS: Leeds Castle is just one of the attractions across Kent taking part in the Big Weekend

of famous castles, historic houses and gardens, and iconic cathedrals and castles alongside the many Kent museums and historic and prehistoric sites taking part.

Popular wild animal parks and farm attractions, as well as activity

centres and themed destinations, will also be included.

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive at Visit Kent, said: "The Kent Big Weekend really highlights what a wide range of attractions and destinations our county has to offer

its 57 million visitors each year.

"And this special Visit Kent event for local residents gives us all a chance to have a fun day out and discover attractions and destinations on our doorstep which we can then recommend to visitors, friends and family."

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Everyone has found themselves struck in one of the many traffic hot-spots in our towns. Now one prospective parliamentary candidate has compiled a list of Kent's worst ten, writes **Chris Murphy**

Jammed: The increasing misery of our busy roads

FOR anyone who uses their car to get to work, the county's traffic hotspots will be only too familiar.

But one budding politician is looking to put the brakes on speculation by naming what he believes to be Kent's top ten most congested roads.

And to the surprise of precisely no-one, Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone and Canterbury all feature heavily.

Jasper Gerard has been looking to build his profile as he prepares to stand for the Lib Dems in next year's General Election – challenging Maidstone and the Weald MP Helen Grant. After closely examining our towns' road networks he declared his home town the worst for jams.

He told us: "I am deeply worried about the increasing pollution levels in Maidstone. They have been professionally checked and analysed and are a major case for concern.

"I feel it is an urgent requirement to get traffic under control. Not only for Maidstone but across the Garden of England – it is vital to not only keep smog levels at a minimum, but also to speed up travel for commuters and shoppers.

"I have decided to take the matter of pollution and congestion on Maidstone's roads all the way to the European parliament."

The crippling impact of clogged roads spreads not only to our health but the local economy too, with businesses trapped when roads snarl up.

Paul Watters from the AA said: "Traffic congestion is bad for commuters and particularly bad for business. If you happen to be in a traffic blackspot, people will stay away rather than battle the traffic.



FAMILIAR SIGHT: Things are so bad in some towns the speed of traffic has not improved since the horse and cart

"Bad junctions, poorly phased traffic lights, potholes and roadworks, all contribute to the problem. In some cities it really is true to say the speed of traffic hasn't improved since the days of the horse and cart.

"Massive improvement schemes

would help enormously, but in these days of austerity it seems that won't happen either. It is a bad time for those trying to navigate many town centres. Sitting idle in a normal family car burns two thirds of a litre of fuel every hour. "If you are doing

that day after day, week after week, the costs mount significantly."

Kent County Council, which manages our highways, has pledged to do all it could to alleviate the worst jams.

A spokesman told us: "We aim to keep Kent's roads moving by

managing the road network, easing congestion, and providing information to the travelling public.

"Our traffic management centre monitors and manages traffic and distributes traffic information. It is also a link to the Highways Agency and other organisations."

The centre monitors traffic flow, manages traffic lights and buses.

The centre uses a variety of intelligent transport system equipment to ensure vehicles keep moving within the constraints of road design.

These include traffic signals, including junctions and pedestrian crossings, CCTV cameras and automatic traffic counters.

KCC said it has had some major success too, including helping to reduce travel time in Maidstone by 25 per cent on weekday mornings at peak times since 2009.

Other moves forward include creating annual savings by minimising delays and minimising the impact of incidents and accidents.

It has reduced queuing for car parks on Saturdays by removing circulating traffic, providing real-time information for Kent's travelling public including bus arrival times at bus stops, helping minimise congestion during major events, such as the Kent County Show and during bad weather situations.

■ What do you make of the county's roads? Are they getting better or worse? And what do you think of Jasper Gerard's top 10? Share your views. Write to The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smetheth, Ashford TN25 6SS. Or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

TOP 10 MOST TRAFFIC-CHOKED ROADS IN KENT according to Jasper Gerard



10 The M25
Getting better after EU-funded improvements, but no-one in Kent would be happy without including the road we all love to hate.

9 Goudhurst Road, Marden
This might seem an odd choice, but with so many cars parked it can look like a chicane, and with both a children's centre and a primary school on the road it scares the life out of me.

8 A229 – Linton Cross Road
You can wait longer for a green light here than for a polite word from an Australian bowler. And as

the A229 heads down to Staplehurst it grows exceptionally dangerous, sometimes fatally.

7 Wincheap, Canterbury
The roundabout has always been congested at peak time. This wasn't helped by the recent Westgate traffic trial, and unlikely to be helped by any future one if that's what KCC decide. The roundabout is a major artery for traffic coming in from Ashford then going on to the ring road.

6 Westgate Towers, Canterbury
During the recent 'trial' to close it to traffic – sadly it just moved the traffic elsewhere.

5 A26 through Southborough
One of those roads that at pretty well any time of day moves slower than a Robin Reliant without petrol.

4 A21 Pembury by North Farm
This major road heading down to Hastings is almost permanently blocked by cars trying to get into the industrial estate. It is in desperate need of an upgrade.

3 Wheatsheaf Junction, south Maidstone
You could read War and Peace in the time you can be stuck at this junction. It is the only permitted road for HGVs from Marden and Staple-

hurst from the south.

2 Rocky Hill/ Tonbridge Rd gyratory, Maidstone
With the county town having no ring-road and the council looking to build anything up to 18,000 houses – producing 106,000 extra car journeys in the borough per day – it is only going to grow worse.

1 Upper Stone Street, Maidstone
Pollution needs to be reduced by up to 88 per cent here for the EU to say the air quality is not dangerous. This is so bad for the health of children and pensioners that I have raised questions about it in the European parliament.

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DEDICATED TO HER PATIENTS: Dr Beth Lewis visited Papua New Guinea as a student and has now returned determined to do all she can to help with the country's health care problems. Based at Kapuna Hospital, she is now raising funds to buy a much-needed ultrasound machine

Doc finds an 'oasis of hope' in jungle forgotten by world

Having swapped Tunbridge Wells for remote hospital in Papua New Guinea, Dr Beth Lewis is now raising funds for vital medical equipment. **Marijke Cox** reports

IT'S a far cry from the white-washed walls of your average hospital and the powerful scent of disinfectant.

Sitting within the dense jungle of the crocodile-infested Wame River in Papua New Guinea, Kapuna Hospital is in such a remote location it's only accessible by boat.

For those fortunate enough to have a motor on their canoe – made from a hollowed tree trunk – it's a six-hour journey from the nearest road.

The majority, however, have to paddle, taking up to three days to reach the facility – hardly an efficient mode of transport for people who are either injured or sick.

When they finally arrive, they are met with limited equipment. There are no X-ray machines and no laboratories.

For a simple chest or bone X-ray patients must travel to a town 80 miles away. For a blood test, it's 200 miles away to the capital Port Moresby. In either case, for many it's just not possible.

But what it lacks in vital equipment, it makes up for in dedicated staff, one of which is Dr Beth Lewis who hails from the somewhat more refined surroundings of Tunbridge Wells.

She forms part of a 24-strong team – two doctors and 22 nurses plus community health workers – looking after a 30,000 patient population from the multiple tribal villages scattered across the region.

In the UK, there would be 93 doctors for that number of patients.

Dr Lewis, 27, lives in the remote gulf province and since leaving leafy west Kent, has never looked back.

Spending two months working in Papua New Guinea in 2009 while studying medicine at Newcastle University, she admits she thought it would be nothing more than a "once in a lifetime opportunity".

"I was so wrong. I totally fell in love with the country, the people and the culture, and knew I would be coming back," she said.

"There is such a huge need for good health-care and having had the privilege of spending two months here as a student, I couldn't ignore the need when I knew it was possible for me to go and help do something about it, even if my being here is just a drop in the ocean."

And so, in 2013, she packed her things and moved out permanently.

Dr Lewis, who attended Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School and Bennett Memorial School, says the main problem for people living there is tuberculosis (TB), with one in every four patients having the disease.

"We have an entire ward just for TB patients," she explains.

"TB lung is the well-known one, but our patients also have TB abdomen, TB meningitis, TB of the spine, TB breast, TB of the joints, TB lymph nodes, the list is endless."

She also deals with diseases including leprosy, malaria, parasitic disease filariasis and HIV along with medical problems typically seen in the UK including pneumonia, heart failure, strokes and cancer.

Injuries are, however, somewhat different to any we could imagine on British shores, with the young doctor dealing with snake bites, wounds caused by crocodiles, fire burns – she says due to everyone cooking over open wood fires – and "endless" machete and bush knife injuries.

"The people here work the land and hunt to survive, so everyone has a machete for hunting and gardening, and lots of injuries result," she says.

"However we never have car accidents due to there being no roads, so it's just swapping one thing for another."

Obstetrics, something she admits she has a particular interest in, is perhaps the main part of her work.

But with it comes much heartache.

"We have the same problems as the UK – difficult labours, bleeding after childbirth, eclampsia – but without the same expertise and resources for dealing with the problems," she said.

It means a huge risk for mothers, with up to one in seven dying from pregnancy-related causes.

Dr Lewis said the risk was so high that being pregnant was seen as one of the most dangerous circumstances a woman can be in.

In a bid to help alleviate the problem, the medic has launched a fundraising campaign to help buy an ultrasound machine for the hospital.

She needs £20,000 and has already raised more than £7,000.

"The biggest use of ultrasound is for pregnant mums," she said.

"For mums who come with early pregnancy problems and bleeding; for dating the age of a baby during pregnancy, so growth and development can be monitored; for determining the position of babies who are not coming head-first."

"By getting an accurate diagnosis in this way problems can be treated early and the right type of safe delivery can be planned for these babies."

"It is literally life and death for some of these babies who have complications."

But it's not just pregnant women and their babies it can help.

"Ultrasound is also used for diagnosis of surgical problems," she said.

"For patients admitted with abdominal pain, ultrasound can differentiate those patients with appendicitis or ectopic pregnancies for whom urgent surgery is needed."

"It is used for our TB patients who need fluid drained from their abdomen or chest; to



monitor response to treatment for those with abdominal TB; for diagnosis of bladder, kidney, bowel, heart and liver problems.

"It can be used in diagnosis of soft tissue, muscle and bone injuries, and finding foreign bodies that need removal. Basically, it is a hugely useful tool for just about any problem that comes to Kapuna Hospital."

Dr Lewis said the hospital was lacking other equipment – ECG and CTG machines as well as the X-ray machine – but that, while useful to have, they would have limited use depending on the patient's needs and would all require a supply of consumables, such as X-ray film and paper.

"The beauty of ultrasound is that it has no need for constant replenishing," said Dr Lewis.

"It can be used for a massive wide variety of patients and problems, and in many instances replace the need for other tests that we just don't have access to."

"The importance basically comes down to if we have an accurate diagnosis, then it helps us to



make accurate decisions, ultimately helping patients get the right treatment at the right time."

But this crucial piece of equipment costs £20,000 – and that's for a second hand one.

"It's a lot of money, but it's a one-off cost without the need for constantly replacing consumables," she stressed.

It's hard to imagine a hospital stuck out in a swamp delta, with no phone or radio network and with people needing crucial help.

But for Dr Lewis, she is determined to provide as good a care as possible with such limited resources.

And despite daily challenges and heartache, she remains steadfast that things will slowly change.

"As with everything, change comes one step at a time," she said.

"It's a challenging place to work, but Kapuna is a beautiful oasis of hope and healing in the midst of a jungle forgotten by the rest of the world."

■ To help raise funds for the ultrasound machine there are just 30 days left, visit www.youcaring.com/kapunaultrasound

Share Dr Lewis's hospital experiences on her blog

DR Beth Lewis writes a blog charting her experiences.

In her extracts, she admits she sometimes feels like she is fighting a losing battle, but at the same time says there are often "miracles in the madness".

From the devastation of mothers and babies perishing, to the delight of a new healthy, bouncing baby, it's a long and emotional road.

But she admits that nothing will take away

the passion for what she does, even when she is pushed to the limits.

"So why do I love it? Sometimes I don't. Sometimes I downright hate it. Sometimes it takes me a day or two to de-stress and remember again why I'm here.

"But in all of this, the cliché is true; the darker the night, the brighter the light shines. The more horrific the circumstances, the more potential for change.

"The more fruitless the job feels, the more

reason to hang onto hope. The more heart-breaking the situation, the more beautiful the miracles seen.

"For me that's more than enough reason to love and stay in this beautiful country.

"And that's without even mentioning the stunning landscape, beautiful people, wonderful culture and amazing food that this country offers too!"

■ You can read Dr Lewis' blog at <http://bepinkth.wordpress.com/>



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Hospital rape victim 'felt like abused dog' at hands of carer

Former patient claims psychiatric wards throughout UK are an 'open playing field for predators'. **Chris Murphy** reports.

PSYCHIATRIC hospitals in Kent and the rest of the UK are an "open playing field for predators".

That is the claim of a former female patient who said she felt like an "abused dog" raped virtually every night a particular worker was on duty at one of the county's hospitals.

She claims she was raped about "60 times" while under the care of what is now the Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership.

While the mother-of-two's claims date back 10 years, concerns remain about the safety of vulnerable patients.

She also criticised the court's handling of the case.

A 2008 hearing heard a worker admit to one count of unlawful sexual intercourse with a patient.

He was handed a 12-month jail term, suspended for two years. He was banned from working with vulnerable people. Other charges were left on file.

The health authority made a £100,000 compensation payment following the ordeal at the Little Brook Hospital in Dartford.

Catherine, not her real name, made the shocking revelations during an interview with Radio 5 Live's presenter Victoria Derbyshire this week.

She had been admitted to the hospital after suffering a nervous breakdown.

In an emotional conversation, Catherine, who was often sedated with Valium while on the ward which she says left her more defenceless, said: "He came in my room, pulled the covers back, got on top, did what he had to do, and left. It was all over very quickly.

"I didn't murmur or move, I don't know why. It took me a couple of years after to understand. I was a defeated person. I wasn't able to care for myself; I wasn't washing, I wasn't feeding myself. I was like an abused dog that you gave another kick to. I was in a bad way, hugely open to abuse."

She added: "I had such little self-respect. I would say it happened every other night and very quickly it became every night he was on shift."

She said, looking back, she believes it was a little of both grooming and blackmail because the care worker had promised to write up favourable reports so she could be discharged quicker.

Eventually Catherine confided in a community nurse and an investigation begun. Just being believed was a major boost for Catherine.

Asked if she felt she was being raped during these assaults, in spite of what charge the care worker faced in court, Catherine said: "Without doubt. Unlawful sexual intercourse, rape; sexual intercourse against someone's will is fundamentally rape."

Criticising the findings of the court case, Catherine said she felt it reinforced the idea people with mental health problems are second class citizens.

She said mentally ill people "are the most vulnerable in society with regards to being open to abuse, and then being believed."

"It's an open playing field for predators in that environment," she said.

Barrister Robin Mairs specialises in such cases and sits as a judge. He said sentencing has changed significantly since Catherine's assault and new guidelines are due in April increasing the maximum sentence to 14 years to life – far above the original two years.

He said one of the most important parts of the new law is a definition of consent for the first time, which is: "A person consents if they agree by choice and have the freedom and capacity to make that choice."

The lawyer added: "Sentencing provisions have changed markedly."

"Sentencing today is much, much tougher than it would have been in the 1970s, 80s and 90s and that's because as a society we understand more of the effects these offences have on victims."

“ It took me a couple of years to understand. I was a defeated person. I wasn't washing, I wasn't feeding myself. I was in a bad way, hugely open to abuse ”

Catherine, talking about the abuse she suffered at Little Brook

A report from the mental health charity Mind found a shocking 30 per cent of sexual victims failed to report what happened to them.

Professor Sue Bailey, president of the Royal College of Psychiatry, is also a consultant psychiatrist who carried out a study of sexual abuse in care environments.

She said: "It is rare but it still happens, and that is unacceptable."

"The solution is to put prevention mechanisms at every level of the system from the beginning, because we know mental health patients, particularly those who are detained, are vulnerable adults."

"Whereas we have given a lot of attention to safeguarding children, I don't think we have given sufficient attention to safeguarding vulnerable adults."

A spokesman for the NHS trust said: "This incident occurred in 2004 prior to the formation of the Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT) in 2006 and so we are unable to comment on this case."

"However, we take the safety of our patients and staff very seriously and have in place stringent pre-employment checks and on-going training and supervision of our staff."

"All staff entering employment at KMPT and who are going to be working with patients and young people undergo an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service which was called a CRB prior to December 1, 2012."

"We check the professional registration of qualified staff and take up references for all new starters."

"References and enhanced DBS clearance are checked before employment with the trust. In addition, our mandatory adult and child protection training for managers includes NHS employment check standards."

"Volunteers who give their time to KMPT and who are going to be volunteering with patients and young people also undergo an enhanced DBS and need to have this clearance completed before they take up the volunteering opportunity."

The spokesman added: "KMPT acknowledges the suffering of all victims of abuse and condemns the conduct of those who prey on vulnerable patients."

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EXPERIENCED: Roz Savage, the race consultant, has rowed across the Pacific Ocean from San Francisco, while ocean challenger Fraser Hart, pictured right, is training hard for his epic journey

Taking on might of North Pacific Ocean in 25ft rowing boat

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

FOR many, looking forward to the summer means sandy beaches, warm seas and complete relaxation.

For web developer Fraser Hart, however, it's going to be 40-foot waves and shark-infested waters.

Because the 33-year-old, from Tunbridge Wells, is aiming to travel from California on the west coast of the USA to Hawaii – some 2,100 nautical miles (2,416 miles) away.

He will be part of a four-man crew hoping to complete the gruelling journey across the North Pacific Ocean.

His team is competing in the New Ocean Wave Great Pacific Race and will line up against about 20 other crews on the start line in Monterey, California, in June.

They will finish in Honolulu, Hawaii, around five weeks later.

Team Pacific Rowers, which also includes friends James Wight, Sam Collins and Colin Parker, will use the trip to raise awareness of ocean conservation and they are now looking for corporate sponsorship to help fund the £70,000 cost of taking part.

This will include selling the naming rights to their boat and team.

Mr Hart, a keen cyclist, said: "I'm very excited. It's bigger than anything I've set my mind to before."

"We're absolutely determined to cross the finish line first, setting the

record for the fastest man-powered crossing of that ocean.

"We've a huge amount of preparation and fundraising to do before we even get to the start line.

"The things I'm most nervous about – even more than the sharks and the storms – are spending so much time in close quarters with three others and the sleep deprivation

"I'm very excited about everything we will experience; the wildlife, the sunsets, the star scapes, the sun rises and just spending over a month with a group of great friends.

"None of us has even pulled an oar before prepping for this challenge so this is a huge undertaking for all of us.

"We've a lot of training between now and June to do, both on our boat and in the gym.

"We're in talks with a couple of charities and are actively seeking potential sponsors, for whom we have a very attractive sponsorship package."

In June, the adventurer completed a 100km walk from London to Brighton with five friends, suffering almost crippling knee pain for much of the journey.

Mr Hart, who works for 360 Software Solutions in Sevenoaks and is a former shift manager at Wetherspoons in Tunbridge Wells, and his crew also completed a 24-hour fund and awareness-raising row in London's Leicester Square in November.

■ **Sponsor Fraser Hart and Team Pacific Rowers at www.pacificrowers.com or facebook.com/pacificrowers.**

Well equipped to face challenge

THE 25ft boat that will become their home for more than five weeks is a specially designed ocean rowing vessel fitted with solar powered water desalination and communication equipment, including a satellite phone – with internet access – and GPS.

Tiny cabins at either end are used for sleeping, as shelter in bad weather and big seas, and to store the crew's dry food and other essentials.

Two rowing positions on the boat means the team will alternate shifts in pairs every two to four hours, fitting in sleep when they can.

They will each complete more than one million oar strokes and burn 5,000 calories per day.

Ocean rowing is a burgeoning sport, with races around the UK and across the Atlantic being held in 2013. This year's Great Pacific Race is the first time such a race has been held.

Roz Savage, who has rowed across the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic oceans, is a consultant for the race.

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Deputy duo to instil a sense of pride within communities

Lord-Lieutenant's latest recruits honoured for their contributions to county life. **Chris Britcher** reports

TWO new Deputy Lieutenants of Kent have been appointed. Both have been honoured for their contribution to the county and will assume the non-political and unpaid roles which are largely ceremonial.

They are Valerie Hale JP of Ash, near Canterbury, and Lord Sackville of Knole, in Sevenoaks.

Deputy Lieutenants are drawn from all walks of life and assume various roles such as greeting and accompanying royalty and heads of state during official visits and taking part in citizenship ceremonies.

Mrs Hale has lived in the county for more than 50 years. She is a teacher by qualification, has been a school governor and ran her own small business for 20 years.

She has previously been deputy chairman of the East Kent Bench and a non-executive director with the Kent and Medway Partnership Trust.

Currently she is a lay representative with NHS Health Education, London, and NHS HE Kent, Surrey and Sussex, and is closely involved in voluntary work and supporting local charities.

After studying history at Oxford University

and business at the London Business School, Robert Sackville-West, or Lord Sackville, worked in publishing, founding Toucan Books in 1985, which creates illustrated, non-fiction books for an international market.

He now combines that with chairing Knole Estates, the property and investment company which, in parallel with the National Trust, runs the Sackville family's interests at Knole.

Among other voluntary roles, Lord Sackville has a long-standing interest in education.

Until 2008, he was chairman of the governing body at Sevenoaks School and is currently a governor, and chair of the finance and premises committee, at the Knole Academy in Sevenoaks.

Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Kent, Viscount De L'Isle MBE, said: "We welcome both these new Deputy Lieutenants whose experience will further reinforce the effectiveness and diversity of the Lieutenancy and will ensure we continue to move forward."

"They will be joining an outstanding network of men and women whose role it is to support the monarchy and celebrate Kent, its unique history and culture."



NEW FACES: Robert Sackville-West, aka Lord Sackville, and the respected Valerie Hale

JUST WHAT IS A DEPUTY LIEUTENANT?

THE Lieutenancy of Kent consists of the Lord-Lieutenant, Vice Lord-Lieutenant and a maximum of 70 other Deputy Lieutenants, approximately one per 25,000 people.

Deputy Lieutenants come from all walks of life and all parts of the county.

Among the current batch are former Gravesend MP Jacques Arnold, ex-Saga boss turned philanthropist Roger De Haan, Shepherd Neame chief executive Jonathan Neame and musician and TV's Jools Holland.

The Lieutenancy of Kent office dates back to Tudor times and was originally responsible for the county's local defence and maintenance of order.

Their local and specialist knowledge and experience is used to positive effect in key areas, ranging from education to youth services, and from the Volunteer Reserve Forces to business and the rural economy.

Duties include greeting and accompany-

ing royalty and heads of state during official visits to the county, the presentation of honours and awards on behalf of the Crown, and participation in citizenship ceremonies.

They advise on events potentially warranting royal visits, on how local people can put forward others suitable for honours and on anniversaries warranting a message from The Queen. They also advise on how community organisations can gain recognition in The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service Scheme.

Viscount De L'Isle added: "The Lieutenancy plays a major role as an effective independent force for good in Kent."

"As the monarchy does nationally, our aim is to provide a focus for county identity, unity and pride, give a sense of stability, recognise achievements, success and excellence, and promote service to others."

WHO IS THE LORD-LIEUTENANT OF KENT?

In post since September 2011, the Viscount De L'Isle, of Penshurst Place, near Tonbridge, was born Philip Sidney in 1945, a descendant of the great 16th-century soldier poet.

Commissioned in the Grenadier Guards in 1966, he served in the British Army of the Rhine, Northern Ireland, Belize and Berlin.

He was awarded an MBE in 1977 and retired from the Army as a Major two years later to manage the Penshurst Place Estate.

He chaired the Kent Country Landowners Committee from 1983-85. Succeeding his father, the 1st Viscount De L'Isle VC KG, in 1991, he sat in the House of Lords from 1991-1999.

He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Kent in 1996 and Vice

Lord-Lieutenant in 2002, taking up his appointment as Lord-Lieutenant of Kent on September 1, 2011.

The Lord-Lieutenant is The Queen's personal representative within Kent and should be accorded the same etiquette and protocol as any member of the royal family when he is attending any event in Kent in his official capacity.

Where the Lord-Lieutenant is unable to attend he may be represented by his Vice Lord-Lieutenant or a Deputy Lieutenant, where the same etiquette and protocol should be followed.

REPRESENTING THE QUEEN:
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THE FUTURE: What commuters can expect at London Bridge – once work is finished in 2018

Big response to £6bn rebuild of London Bridge

Commuters from Kent give their views during the scheme's consultation stage, writes **Chris Murphy**

AS THOUSANDS of commuters in the county get ready for rail chaos in May, it has been revealed hundreds of passengers have taken part in the public consultation over the massive redevelopment of London Bridge.

In what has been described as "the most ambitious development of any London station in a generation", London Bridge will see extra platforms, a new concourse plus all the associated facilities expected of one of the busiest London terminals.

The station, first built in 1836, is London's oldest, but caters for twice as many passengers as Gatwick Airport.

As part of a multi-billion investment programme in London and the south east's rail network, the station will undergo a huge overhaul allowing it, by the time work is complete in 2018, to cater for two-thirds more passengers, and more services.

But while it will ultimately deliver a better service for Kent commuters, it will come at a heavy cost – with significant disruption to Southeastern, Southern and Thameslink services over the next five years.

As of 2015, services will begin to stop serving London Bridge.

Southeastern said it has been pleased with the response to the ambitious £6 billion Thameslink works, which will also include replacing miles of old track and rebuilding a number of bridges.

While work is set to get under way in May, officials are still ploughing through the suggestions made during the public consultation.

Passenger groups are anxious over the disruption but understand it will deliver long-term benefits.

Guy Dangerfield, is manager of independent body Passenger Focus, which represents rail travellers.

He said: "Rebuilding London Bridge station, a

key part of the Thameslink programme, is necessary so more trains can run and overcrowding can be reduced. An upgrade to the station itself is also long overdue.

"But there is no getting away from the fact some passengers will be inconvenienced while work takes place.

"Passengers tell us that information is key to minimising their inconvenience, including being clear about what is happening when and setting out the options so people can make an informed decision about what's best for them."

Previously the campaign group had run a passenger survey and found London Bridge station was rated as the second worst of all Network Rail-owned stations, with less than two-thirds satisfied by it.

Network Rail, which manages the nation's rail infrastructure, is behind the improvement programme.

Mr Dangerfield added: "This massive investment and redevelopment is absolutely necessary. Most passengers should benefit in the long-term from the improved station and increased capacity which should reduce overcrowding."

Southeastern trains to Charing Cross will not call at London Bridge for a year from 2015, and services to Canon Street will also not halt there between 2016 until the end of 2017.

Robin Gisby, managing director of network operations at Network Rail, said: "This will be the most ambitious redevelopment of any London station in a generation and one of the most technically demanding projects ever undertaken on our railway.

"It is only possible because of the partnership that we have built with the train operators, Transport for London and our suppliers.

"But ultimately its success will be defined by the passengers who use the station. The benefits will be massive, but we need their help and support to make it happen."

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'Perfect storm' sends wind turbines into a record spin

WHILE most of the county was battenning down the hatches earlier this month as we found ourselves battered by gale force winds and torrential rain, it was all proving to be the perfect storm for some.

Because the National Grid this week confirmed to KoS that January 6 was the best day on record for the county's – and country's – wind farms.

At one stage, wind power alone was generating enough power for more than one in every 10 homes in the nation.

A spokesman said: "Checking our spreadsheets containing graphs which look at national wind power levels from the start of December right through to last Sunday (January 12), we found January 6 was a record day for wind power in terms of its total output."

Storms lashed the country – with the south coast particularly badly hit. But while it sent many into a spin, it sent the giant on and off-shore wind turbines spinning like never before.

The London Array is the world's largest off-shore windfarm, located off the coast of Margate. It currently has 175 turbines and will be adding between 40 and 65 more by the end of next year.

A spokesman explained the basics of these giant sea-bound windmills. He said: "If there is no wind they generate no power. If there is too much wind, they are shut down for safety. Somewhere in between there is a sweet spot, and it seems that's where we were on January 6. You really could say it was the perfect storm."

The National Grid measures output from all sources in the UK, including coal, gas, nuclear and of course wind, in half hour segments.

On January 6, the National Grid said it saw a total output for wind twice peak at 6136MW, first at 7pm and then again an hour later.

In the top 10 of peaks, January 6 appears in

Winter gales have seen the National Grid's London Array running at full capacity and setting new electricity production highs, reports **Chris Murphy**



RECORD-BREAKING TURBINES: On January 6, 2014, the London Array farm was producing 14 per cent of Britain's daily electricity needs

the top five positions. At 8.30pm, wind was supplying an astonishing 14 per cent of Britain's power needs.

By contrast, on Wednesday morning this week – when the weather was a little calmer – it was hitting a mere six per cent of total capacity.

The National Grid spokesman added: "These figures are excellent for wind power production."

"We believe all energy sources have a role to play as part of a balanced energy mix. It's our role to balance the system to make sure there's enough supply to meet the country's demand, minute by minute."

But those winds can be too high on occasions. It's easy to assume a hurricane will set the turbines generating power like there's no tomorrow. The reality is it will probably do the complete opposite.

The Met Office said: "A mean wind speed that is too high can damage the turbines and create dangerous situations."

"In Kent, over January 6 the hourly mean wind speed was 20.7mph at Gravesend and 27.6mph at Manston."

"We would describe that as moderate to fresh and was caused by a series of Atlantic lows that brought in strong winds. Some were squally and gusty. We saw gusts up to 34mph at Malling. So on average it seems this was ideal weather conditions for the turbines."

At the London Array it meant breaking a record set just two weeks before.

A spokesman added: "January 6 was indeed a record day for London Array surpassing the previous best, which was on December 21."

Mike O'Hare, general manager for London Array, added: "Although it has only been fully operational since April it managed to produce 2TWh of electricity last year, enough to meet the electricity needs of some 450,000 homes – equivalent to approximately three quarters of the households in Kent."

"In December, average generation rose sharply with more than 260GWh of electricity produced over the course of the month."

"Good wind speeds were a significant factor in boosting production. The 3.6MW Siemens turbines with 60m blades that we have at London Array start generating when the wind reaches an average of about 10 mph. The output increases approximately linearly with the wind speed until the wind speed reaches 30 mph. At this point, the power is regulated at rated power."

"If the average wind speed exceeds the maximum operational limit of 56 mph, the wind turbine is shut down by feathering the blades. Winds of this strength are few and far between so although the turbines have shut down for some relatively short periods in recent weeks as designed, overall the windy conditions

have been good for green energy production.

"However, wind is only one factor in determining performance. We're now fully realising the benefits of having a well-managed construction and commissioning phase, along with having high quality turbines and other equipment. The reliability of the turbines, the efficiency of planned servicing and the effectiveness of the day-to-day operations is crucial to us generating as much clean energy as possible when the wind speed is high."

"As a project we are increasingly looking for ways to improve the availability, reliability and output of the turbines even further to produce best in class performance. To help ensure we do this, we have 70 highly skilled, long-term technicians at our Ramsgate operations and maintenance base, along with additional back-up support when required."

"Furthermore, since our turbines were originally developed, there have been improvements to blade aerodynamics. As a result, we have recently implemented a blade upgrade package, meaning we are getting more energy out of the same infrastructure."

Vattenfall runs 30 turbines at the Kentish Flats site, some six miles off the coast of Whitstable, and another 100 at Thanet Offshore producing a maximum of almost 400MW.

The company said: "On January 6 there were high winds at Kentish Flats with the average speed coming in at 36 miles per hour. At Thanet Offshore, which is a little further out from shore, there were, on average, stronger winds at 40 miles per hour. Throughout the day both wind farms were running at, or close to, full capacity."

"Typically, if individual wind turbines experience consistent wind speeds above 65 miles per hour at 80 metres height they will automatically turn into the wind until its strength drops to within limits and start generating again."

"During the storms the wind at both sites gusted higher than 65 miles an hour on occasion – in fact, the highest recorded wind speed at the two wind farms was 107 miles per hour. There were a number of periods of sustained winds above 65 miles per hour at both wind farms although these occasions were not prolonged and production restarted soon after."

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ROMANCE IN WAR: *Birdsong* tells the story of a First World War soldier holding on to the hope of seeing his French lover again



A classic war work but the questions remain

The astonishing book *Birdsong* is being taken to the stage for a third time...
Greg Miles met author, director and cast at the National Army Museum

IF *Birdsong* the stage show can be half as successful as the book in educating the masses about the horrors of war, then the production will be on to a good and wonderful thing.

Sebastian Faulks's novel, which has sold more than three million copies worldwide, struck such a chord that it has become a staple of literary education in schools and been adapted for both television and theatre.

The stage production, coming to Tunbridge Wells at the end of next month, is in its third season, which falls in the centenary of the First World War, in which it is set.

The romantic tale follows the story of soldier Stephen Wraysford, who is engaged in tunnel warfare while clinging to the hope of seeing his French lover, Isabelle Azaire, again.

It is a very different portrayal of

the First World War to previous efforts. The production team were keen to move as far as possible from the perception of the war associated with productions such as BBC comedy *Blackadder*.

That issue has also been taken up nationally by education minister Michael Gove, who this month said the war was being misunderstood because of the myths in *Blackadder* and its use as an educational tool in schools.

"The conflict has, for many, been seen through the fictional prism of dramas such as *Oh! What A Lovely War*, *The Monocled Mutineer* and *Blackadder* as a misbegotten shambles – a series of catastrophic mistakes perpetrated by an out-of-touch elite," he told the *Daily Mail*.

Echoing those sentiments are both the production team behind *Birdsong* and its writer, Faulks.

"What this year should all be about is raising questions. History will change, as will perceptions of it," said director Alistair Whatley.

The journey to the stage started when writer Rachel Wagstaff, who has had success with *The Soldier and Night Sky* in theatre, persevered with an initially unsure author Faulks.

"I read the book about 17 years ago and fell in love with it. When I read it, I thought it would work on the stage," she said. "I could see the intensity of the tunnel scenes and thought it would be interesting to have it in a dark room."

"I emailed him [Faulks] to say can I adapt your book. He emailed back pretty much saying no but could you contact my agent."

Suffice to say, it opened at the Comedy Theatre in the West End in 2010, directed by Sir Trevor

Nunn, before a second, revised, tour last year that went across the country and was seen by more than 75,000 people.

"The first production is very faithful to the book. We were happy enough with it, but it didn't quite work," said Wagstaff.

That was when Alistair Whatley became involved. Having seen it himself, he felt there was something missing and met Wagstaff in a bar after an evening performance, setting the wheels in motion for the reworked second production.

Whereas the first show was at some points taken word for word from the book, it was rewritten as a memory play, with the main character Wraysford telling the story through flashbacks.

Faulks, a former literary editor

Continued on page 39 »

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JOANNA slim attractive blue eyed blonde nurse, divorced with two teenagers, lots of love to give, looking for Mr Right, call me lets put the spark back. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409097

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1960 Box 408297

FLOR beautiful educated European blonde, articulate, seeking similar intelligent well-mannered mature gent to enjoy socialising, conversing and quality times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408293

CARIBBEAN female, 50, honest, caring, thoughtful, seeking male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408231

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AMANDA 44 blonde, blue eyed, very leggy, fun to be with, honest and caring seeking kind, considerate honest gent 74-79 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405315

LISA busty blonde 34yr old fun to be with single party goer, looking for similar male for adult fun maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408289

ELAINE lonely divorced female with no ties, enjoys dog walking, cosy nights in, looking for reliable caring male to spend quality time Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408283

25YR old very lonely unloved Asian female seeking true love, must be very discreet, enjoy good nights out and able to accommodate cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408249

CATH attractive tall blonde, likes travel, walking, romantic nights out, cosy nights in, looking for Prince Charming, must be passionate and loyal. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408245

KAREN blonde, long legged, many interests, very young looking, outgoing, adventurous, likeable W/LTM my soul mate, could that be you? Pls call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407953

CHRIS 39yr old attractive well built sporty lady looking for tall, happy, well built male to enjoy adult companionship, hopefully leading to more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407935

CATHY divorced independent hopeless romantic seeking special gent to spend really nice special time with, get to know and take it from there. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407623

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SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, N/S, solvent lady, young 50's, likes travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, Military/professional gent of high calibre. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405707

JOYCE 83, widow, W/LTM gent with GSOH for days out, friendship, companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403607

REBECCA kind, caring, honest, lonely, seeking older gent to wine and dine me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402273

DEILAH 49, likes animals, blonde, blue eyes, seeking older gent, late 70's who is kind and willing to care about me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403769

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384852

LYN happy, young looking 72yr old, seeking interesting man, 65 plus to enjoy life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403101

LINDA young 62, smoker, seeking gent, 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400521

CANDY 42, blonde, voluptuous, blue eyes, GSOH, bubbly, seeks older male, 75 plus, kind, caring and honest. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391012

ADAM 48, single dad, bored, seeking fun and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408421

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Medway area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408343

RETIRED male, 66, 6ft 2ins, easy going, GSOH, loyal, loves pets, meals out, life, seeks lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407317

MALE 67, professional, fit, 5ft 10ins, medium build, reliable, tactile, likes most things, seeks slim lady, let's go! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407855

STEVE 6ft 4ins, OHAC, seeking relationship, outdoor type, homely, wanting mutual good relationship with sexy woman. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407835

ANTHONY 48, athletic, enjoys country walks, seeks youthful female for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407355

71YR old romantic, 6ft, likes life, socialising, reading, strong tea, dogs, smoker but house trained seeks mature lady needing TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407277

TALL friendly, very light hearted, single 58, seeks pretty woman for LTR, mutual selection of activities and choosing how to spend our time. Crydon. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407147

SEXY fireman, looking for love and fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407883

BLACK genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388372

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 8ins, considerate, GSOH, easygoing, likes driving, shopping, most music, seeking lady 60-70 for friendship. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404589

DOG lover short of British slim petite lady to maybe get into 1-2 relationship and start something new. Smoker welcome, age immaterial. Tunbridge Wells area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404417

TALL slim male, early 40's, seeks loving female, 29-39 to share the nice things in life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407065

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CHRIS 68, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271

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JAMIE 6ft 1ins, dark hair, blue eyes, seeks female, 40-50, easy going for no strings fun, nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408051

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TALL black male, 45, likes meals out, good company, romantic, GSOH, light hearted, seeks easygoing female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409621

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Dover. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409533

MALE seeking attractive female for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409189

MALE seeking female to love and be loved back. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408941

FIT fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to find fanciable lady for free and fascinating future for LTR. Find your jar half full. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405857

CHRIS 52, slim, looking for female, 25-38, slim, 5ft 2ins plus for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408575

DAVE 50, likes holidays, meals out, socialising, easy going, seeks female 40 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408541

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BLACK male, looking for 1-2 relationship with laid back, understanding female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406221

YOUNG 70 widower, fit, lonely, 5ft 11ins, 11st, likes drives, walks, DIY, meals out, gardening, smoker, looking for lady to spend life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405519

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388372

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DISCREET kind man, 48, gentle, loving, genuine, seeking lady, Whistable. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406439

SWANSEA man, 51, 5ft 6ins, slim, seeks slim female for nights in/out, company, walks, talks and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402033

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013

PROFESSIONAL romantic male, 44, likes meals out, cinema, music, holidays, seeks female, 30-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 250195

GARY 48, 6ft, well-built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175

DAVE 50, likes holidays, meals out, socialising, easy going, seeks female 40 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408541

DAVE 50, seeks female of similar age for meals out, holidays etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408415

DAVE 50, seeks female of similar age for meals out, holidays etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408415

« Continued from page 37

at The Independent, said: "Moving something from one medium into another is extremely difficult. It has got further and further from the book – in one sense it's more dramatic."

"When she [Rachel Wagstaff] asked me if she could write a script for it, I think I said something like why would you want to make an oil painting from a sculpture?"

"One of the ways it has been adapted from the book is that there are really hardly any lines direct from the book now."

In 2012 it was turned into a two-part television drama, with Les Misérables star Eddie Redmayne playing the role of Stephen Wraysford. However, it was not fully accepted by Faulks and the stage-production team.

"I thought there was much to admire," said Faulks. "I thought it was a very honourable piece of work, but there were things that didn't work so well. It was good and bad."

Director Whatley, meanwhile, said: "I enjoyed it very much. It wasn't quite what I had in my head."

"That's maybe why it works in the theatre. On stage it is very simple and lets the audience fill in the gaps. On screen it is all there in front of you."

Playing the lead this time round is George Banks, who was well aware of what he was stepping into ahead of his audition.

"I hadn't read the book before the audition but knew of it because it's so well loved," he said. "I read the play and did some research and thought it was an exciting thing to go up for."



HOLD ON: Carolin Stoltz and George Banks star in the adaptation of *Birdsong*

Reading the book after getting the part meant he could flesh out his character ahead of rehearsals, which start next week.

"The description of his life in the trenches is incredible. It's an incredible piece of writing," he said. "You can think and smell all the things he does. It's almost cheating as an actor – there are these things about him you know are there and it's a matter of tapping into that."

Having a role in a book adaptation

means he will be scrutinised by fans of the original work – something he has already encountered even among his own family.

"When my cousin found out I had the part, he said 'You better not ruin the book for me'."

"The book is the book, but the play, although it has the characters, is our interpretation of that. Everyone that reads it imagines it differently."

"We plan to keep fans happy but for those that don't know it give them

something different."

He is hoping his involvement will be as much a history lesson for himself as for the audience.

"Once it's up and running and touring, I plan to learn as much as I can about the war," he said.

"I know the dates of the battles, but to what extent things happened I wasn't fully aware."

"I'm intrigued to find out as much as I can about their lives, what they had to go through and how they came out the other side."

"The First World War was one of the things we touched upon at school, but it was more about the Second World War, perhaps because

“The book is the book, but the play, although it has the characters, is our interpretation of that... everyone that reads it imagines it differently”

it affected England and our land and is closer to us in terms of time.

"A lot of people have no idea what happened in the First World War because it was such a brutal, horrible war. It's not something I knew much about. I hope other people might want to do the same."

"My mother's father was a teenager in Poland when the Second World War broke out, so he saw some horrible things and he fought in the Second World War."

"He would talk about it, but with great clarity and care, because you wouldn't want to share the full horrors of it. My brother once

described him as an English gentleman and a Polish hero, which is quite apt."

"You would be hard-pressed to find a life that hasn't been affected by both conflicts."

Banks's opposite number is Swedish actress Carolin Stoltz (Isabelle Azaire), who has appeared in *Emmerdale* and was in *The Inbetweeners Movie*. She was brought to tears when she read the book for the first time.

"As soon as I got the part, it was the first thing on my list to read," she said. "The script was amazing – I fell in love with it straight away and really wanted the part."

"I cried when I read it, several times, especially the scene when the war ended and Stephen can meet the German and they hug. That was the big moment for me. I thought it was incredibly moving from being underground that long thinking he's going to die."

She hopes to make her character flourish in the role, knowing that there will be loyal fans of the book coming to see it.

"I'm a bit nervous about that. I hope I can do it justice and will try my best," she said.

"I'm sure there will be people that think 'Oh, Isabelle's not like that', but that's your interpretation. I have my own interpretation and hope people will see it the same way as I see her."

■ *Birdsong* is at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, from February 24-March 1 (except Thursday, February 27). Tickets from £18. To book online, visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk or phone 01892 530613.

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Henry Shields talks to **Greg Miles** about getting into acting with a new comedy that he has co-written

THERE are not many industries as competitive as acting, as Cranbrook's Henry Shields has been finding out for himself this year.

The 25-year-old has kicked his own career to the curb for the time being to concentrate on a new comedy show that has received rave reviews in the last 12 months, including many from a popular stint at the Edinburgh Festival.

After grinding out up to three shows a day in a London pub, *The Play That Goes Wrong* has been rewritten for a national tour, which starts at The Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury on Tuesday.

It is a far cry from the world of medicine Shields had originally envisaged at school when he held hopes of becoming a doctor, but there are no regrets about a career that has become a whole lot more rewarding working on a show that he has co-written.

The play within a play, by Mischief Theatre, documents the farcical and hapless attempts to perform a 1920s murder mystery by fictional theatre group The Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society. Plenty of inspiration is taken from humorists such as Buster Keaton and Michael Green.

Shields, a former Cranbrook School and Cranbrook College student, plays the character of Inspector Carter, pictured far right, in the murder mystery and the role of Chris Bean, who is directing the fictional production.

"Everyone says the acting business

Show created to 'fill the time' takes centre stage



CALAMITOUS: Not very much goes to plan in the play by Henry Shields, right



is very difficult – and they're not wrong," said Shields. "Since I graduated a year and a half ago I

have had an agent and I have gone for 20 or 30 auditions and have got one part.

"I have been lucky we have been able to create our own work, but it is as tough as people imagine. It's a lot

more rewarding creating something from scratch rather than doing somebody else's script.

"Since this started to become more successful, I have left my personal acting career behind. I don't have the time to do it at the moment."

It started out as an hour-long production in the Old Red Lion Theatre Pub in north London before appearing at the Edinburgh Festival... not bad for a project to create to fill time.

"We started it after we had graduated. We were all in various different years and we did it really to fill the time because we were unemployed actors. We just needed something to do," said Shields.

At its peak at the Old Red Lion there were three shows a day, so going on tour means less work.

"We didn't have any money behind it – the only way it would make it is if it did two shows a day. The tour is a bit of a relief, with just eight shows a week."

Mischief Theatre started out as an improvisation group, with this being its first scripted venture. It has led to two more plays that go wrong, with *Peter Pan* and *Nativity Productions*.

"There are three goes-wrong plays now, so the next thing we do might need something to go right. I think there's the possibility of doing one more."

■ **The Play That Goes Wrong** is at The Marlowe Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, January 21-25. Tickets are priced at £15 and available by phoning 01227 787787 or visiting www.marlowetheatre.com.

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KENT LIFE



LOOK OUT: Above, the dairy, as the building was in a past life; the image below shows the refurbishment complete with milk churns as stools

Couple milk the future with a nod to the past

A restaurant has been transformed into a more relaxed venue that draws on its history as a dairy. **Greg Miles** learns about the refurbishment that now has milk bottles hanging from the ceiling and churns used as bar stools.

A RESTAURANT in Boughton-Under-Blean has churned up its past in a bid to keep up with current trends.

The Dairy, formerly Martin's in the village near Faversham, has taken a stylish route back to the building's origins.

Once a fine-dining restaurant, it now has leather sofas where customers can order bar snacks under the glow of lights made from milk bottles or sit at the bar on a milk churn rather than a stool.

There is still, though, a serious (but more relaxed) side to its dining experience, with traditional steaks still on a revamped menu.

It is all part of a plan by husband-and-wife team, head chef Paul and front-of-house Julie Martin, to keep it going for decades to come.

They already have 26 years under their belts as Martin's and another 12 before that as Martin's in Herne Bay. With the recession hitting the industry hard, they are not the only eatery owners to tone down in the last couple of years and probably won't be the last.

"In 38 years we have seen many recessions, but every time we have evolved and managed to survive. It's what you have to do," said Julie.

"Eating out has changed. When we first started back in the day, people would get dressed up and



suited and booted to eat. People don't do that now. Everything is so much more relaxed.

"In the 70s and 80s, people had a purpose to eat out for anniversaries or birthdays. This generation in their 20s and 30s have got the attitude that they go out to eat more."

That is why the pair took down their name from above the door in

July and ripped out everything in sight before reopening at the beginning of December.

Handily, one of their four children, David, runs Hartwood Joinery in Ashford and helped them out with the refit.

"We decided to shut Martin's, which was a very brave decision," said Julie. "We decided that if

customers were that loyal they would follow us.

"We completely refurbished it. Absolutely nothing is left of Martin's and it's absolutely beautiful.

"He was my first choice. He's got an eye for that and he knew exactly what he wanted to do. We all worked together – it was a family effort. We just wanted to keep up with current trends. There was nowhere like it in our area."

The village was the perfect fit when they moved there in 1987.

"We wanted a village setting to bring the children up in and decided Boughton would be our home," she said. "Twenty-six years later, we have got a good following of regular customers. They were coming in for their first dates then and are coming back for their wedding anniversaries now."

"We built up a reputation and people came and found us. Once they had come once or twice, we were their special restaurant."

"It's quite exciting for us, really. It's the start of hopefully another 26 years, by which time I will be about 180 years old, I think!"

"We have thought about doing it lots of times, but it has come down to circumstances and being brave enough."

Continued on page 43 »



FANTASTIC COMEDY COMING TO MARGATE THEATRES



TREVOR NOAH THE RACIST

Tuesday 28 January - 7.30pm

Theatre Royal

Fresh from a record-breaking season of shows at London's Soho Theatre and a critically acclaimed total sell-out season at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, South African comedian, Trevor Noah is proud to present his critically acclaimed show, *The Racist*, on a ground-breaking tour of the UK.

Age 16+ Tickets £15

"SLICK, INTELLIGENT, BLISSFULLY FUNNY... THIS IS INSIGHTFUL, WARM, CLASSY COMEDY" - Time Out

★★★★★

MARK THOMAS 100 ACTS of MINOR DISSENT

Wednesday 12 February - 7.30pm

Theatre Royal

Mark Thomas is well versed in the art of creative mayhem and over the years his troublemaking has changed laws, cost companies millions and annoyed those who most deserved to be. Now he returns to what he does best, mischief- joyously bad behaviour with a purpose.

Age 16+ Tickets from £10

The Telegraph ★★★★★

Broadway Baby ★★★★★

ED BYRNE ROARING FORTIES

Tuesday 25 February - 8pm

Winter Gardens

A self-confessed "miserable old git" since the age of 23, Ed Byrne is now in his forties. While for others this might result in a crisis that prompts the purchase of a sportscar, Ed embraces middle age with open arms. Come join him, as he truly comes of age and gives out his clarion cry "I am in my Forties. HEAR ME ROAR!"

Age 12+ Tickets £22.50

"Comedy's holy grail... go see!" - The Sunday Times

Book now by calling the box office on 01843 292795
www.theatreroyalmargate.com / www.margatewintergardens.co.uk



CHANGE OF SCENERY: The new bar at The Dairy restaurant and bar, left, with its custom-made milk-bottle lights, and how it was as the South View Dairy, right, complete with its delivery lorry

« Continued from page 41

The new menu offers everything from a scotch egg to a steak, with all produce from local suppliers.

"It has been a complete menu change, but we have kept with our steaks," said Julie.

"We do a lovely home-made burger and everything is sourced locally. We get our cheese from Dargate and our meat from Faversham.

"The menu has got starters, light bites, bar snacks and proper main meals, too. You can order a bucket of

chips or a scotch egg if you want."

There has also been a change to opening times – at weekends The Dairy is open from 11am until 11pm, which is bringing in a new kind of customer.

"People are coming in for a meal and popping in on their way home from work," said Julie.

"We're finding people aren't only coming in for a meal but for a cup of coffee or a beer, too.

"A lot of people come to Boughton to go walking around the orchards and so they come in beforehand and

then come back for a main meal afterwards.

"We are easy to get to from any direction and are finding people head to us as a meeting place."

The building has always been associated with food, having previously been an Italian and a tea house, and before that a dairy.

That link came about through a regular customer who is a relative of the dairy owner.

"We had a customer come in and tell us it was a dairy in the 1930s and 1940s and that in 1945 it had a

“A lot of people come to Boughton to go walking around the orchards, so they come in beforehand and then come back for a main meal afterwards”

general store with it, too," said Julie.

"It started as a dairy in 1930 and was given to this lady's grandma as a wedding present on Christmas Day. In the 40s it became South View Dairy and stores."

Julie and Paul first got into the restaurant industry in Herne Bay with their first incarnation of Martin's.

They stayed there for 12 years but moved on in search of a new home to bring up their four children.

■ For more on The Dairy, visit www.thedairyrestaurant.co.uk.

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Ban on fixed-odds betting machines

I NOTE Parliament has failed to even restrict the use of fixed-odds betting machines (KoS 12.01), whereas Ireland actually plans to ban them completely.

These machines in betting shops feature electronic versions of games such as roulette.

The stakes can be very high, and the win – or more usually loss – almost immediate, which is why they are highly addictive.

They attract poor and desperate people, who are likely to be even poorer and more desperate when they have finished playing.

Addicts may turn to crime to fund their gambling addiction, an issue that could directly affect any of us.

We do not need these dangerously addictive machines. The UK should follow Ireland's excellent example and ban them from our high streets.

Richard Mountford,
Hildenborough

Folkestone's link to war memorial

WHEN he visited Tyne Cot cemetery in Belgium with its Memorial to the Missing, apart from the sadness and immense significance of the place, I wonder if Folkestone MP, Damian Collins, appreciated a connection with his own constituency?

After the end of World War One, the very best architects, sculptors and designers were commissioned to create memorials to those lost or missing in the war and the bronze works on the massive memorials there at Tyne Cot are the work of Frederick Victor Blundstone who also created our splendid war memorial in Folkestone.

Frederick Blundstone won the Folkestone Council War Memorial Competition in 1920.

He was an internationally famous sculptor of the period and our memorial is in very prestigious company because he was also commissioned to create the huge Newfoundland National WWI War Memorial in the capital St John's.

Much of his work is in prominent positions in London including the Plimsoll Line Memorial on the Victoria Embankment to our local hero Samuel Plimsoll.

Blundstone's two imposing Prudential War Memorials to both world wars are in Holborn, and his Lewis Carroll memorial is at St Mary's Hospital in Paddington.

The Stalybridge Cheshire War Memorial, a JM Barrie memorial in

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Call to make weekly food shop '10% local'

THE environment minister's remarks to the Oxford Farming Conference are very welcome and he is correct to point out that much more can be done to reduce our dependence on imported foods, become more self-reliant and create jobs in the food sector.

Specifically, he told the conference that food manufacturers and farmers must 'take action' and do more to encourage consumers.

I am happy to tell him and your readers that Kent is doing just that.

Produced in Kent, one of the largest county food promotion organisations in the country, has already launched its '10% local'

campaign to encourage all Kent consumers to make at least 10 per cent of their weekly food shopping as local as possible.

If we succeed, this will contribute more than £170 million a year to our local economy, create jobs, improve diets and improve nutrition levels and contribute to environmental conservation.

It is neither rocket nor science but is easy, tasty and a fun way to help ourselves in these days of austerity and budget cuts.

I would urge the minister and all regions in the UK to follow the example.

Ed Martin,
Produced in Kent, Hadlow

New Zealand and the huge Titanic Engineers Memorial in Southampton are among his works.

It is worth noting Frederick Blundstone, as well as creating the bronze plaque on Folkestone's War Memorial with the dedication which specifically includes all those who passed that spot in the Great War, also created its bronze panel which illustrates the troops marching towards their transport ships.

Our Folkestone memorial, like all others, speaks of terrible suffering, but by its very existence reminds us we should never forget all those who endured appalling hardships and the hell of the trenches and the battlefields, experiences which would haunt them forever, as well as all

those who tragically never returned.

Jean Hendry, Folkestone

Naval ship losses stir my memories

I FIND your articles about the loss of naval ships which were not publicised at the time, most interesting.

I experienced such happenings whilst serving in the Far East. I remember at the time of the fall of Singapore when the Repulse and Prince of Wales were lost and others soon followed the same fate.

The Cornwall, Shropshire and Hermes aircraft carrier were sunk.

There were a number of local men who survived the Cornwall and one

told me that the Japanese machine gunned them in the water.

The most terrible thing I experienced was during the Sicily landings.

I was serving on the Monitor Erebus. We were steaming in convoy and close to us on the starboard quarter was a hospital ship, fully illuminated.

We were being bombed and the hospital ship was hit and sunk. I could hear the screams as she went down. I do not ever remember seeing this published.

AW Tilley, Whitstable

If the lights go out change supplier

FUNNY how people in the Tory heartland of rural Kent criticise David Cameron for the failure of the privatised electricity companies to restore their power.

Don't they realise that when the utilities were privatised, the government no longer had responsibility for them?

They should remember that, whilst they look at their uncooked turkey, floating in the flood waters, David Cameron has given them a choice, if they are not satisfied with their supplier, they can change to a new one.

Anthony Sansum, Dover

Turkeys not just for Christmas!

JOHN Latham wrote in KoS that after eating turkey and trifle we should now think about being blood donors to save lives this year.

Excellent idea. I could not agree more, but if anyone wants to save lives, stop eating turkeys!

After all, it's their lives and that is important too.

Jean Bridger, Ramsgate

Legal aid strike: Tell us court costs

RE: The legal aid strike. As we taxpayers pay their wages, the lawyers and so on are our employees.

We have every right to know the wages we pay them. They do this in the US and Australia, for example.

I would like to see published the cost of the courts in Kent and the rates of pay for their staff.

It would be astonishing, especially if you printed the OAP rates next to them as well as basic wages in Kent commerce.

After all, it's their lives and that is important, too.

EJ Pettinger, Hythe

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise." This is summed up in the strapline 'Inspiring Communities'.

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles: **Kent on Sunday will:**

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.
- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between

news, comment and advertising.

- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
- 9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
- 10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.



Sheppey Crossing

by **Ricky Irwin**
from Chatham

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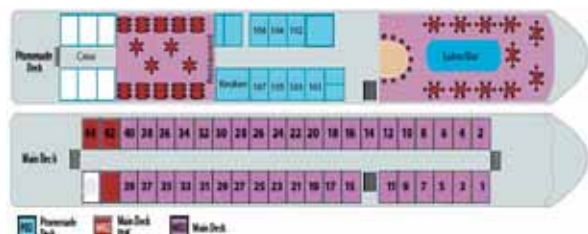
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*Note: For the Rhine cruise we continue from Brussels by train to Cologne. In November and December some Eurostar trains are to or from Lille.

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Quote: RH10-KOS

WW1 & Armistice Day in Ypres 8 November, 2014

Ports & Places: Antwerp > Brussels > Mons > Gent > Ypres - 11th Nov Armistice Day Commemorations & In Flanders Fields Museum > Bruges > Plugstreet 14-18 Experience

6 DAYS SEMI-ALL INCLUSIVE FROM £699PP

Cabin: MR2 £699; MD2 £749; PD2 £839

Quote: WW11-KOS

Belgium, Flanders & The Last Post 13 November, 2014

Ports & Places: Plugstreet 14-18 Experience > Bruges > Ypres - In Flanders Fields Museum & The Last Post at the Menin Gate > Gent > Antwerp > Brussels

5 DAYS SEMI-ALL INCLUSIVE FROM £489PP

Cabin: MR2 £489; MD2 £539; PD2 £639

Quote: PC11-1-KOS

Belgium & Holland Christmas Party 17 November, 2014

Ports & Places: Antwerp > Hasselt - Winter Wonderland > Maastricht > Valkenburg - Christmas Markets Caves > Hasselt

5 DAYS SEMI-ALL INCLUSIVE FROM £469PP

Cabin: MR2 £469; MD2 £519; PD2 £619

Quote: PC11-2-KOS

Belgium & Holland Christmas Party 21 November, 2014

Ports & Places: Hasselt - Winter Wonderland > Maastricht > Valkenburg - Christmas Markets Caves > Optional Aachen Christmas Market, Germany

4 DAYS SEMI-ALL INCLUSIVE FROM £379PP

Cabin: MR2 £379; MD2 £419; PD2 £509

Quote: PC11-3-KOS

Valkenburg & Bruges Christmas Markets & Ypres 24 November, 2014

Ports & Places: Maastricht > Valkenburg - Christmas Markets Caves* > Antwerp > Ypres - In Flanders WW1 Fields Museum > Bruges Christmas Market

5 DAYS SEMI-ALL INCLUSIVE FROM £479PP

Cabin: MR2 £479; MD2 £529; PD2 £629

Quote: PC11-4-KOS

Christmas Markets Spectacular 28 November & 1 December, 2014

Ports & Places: Lille Christmas Market > Bruges Christmas Market > Ypres small Christmas Market & In Flanders Fields WW1 Museum* > Brussels Christmas Market

4 DAYS SEMI-ALL INCLUSIVE FROM £379PP

Cabin: MR2 £379; MD2 £419; PD2 £509

Quote: PC11-5/6-KOS

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Harnessing power of the internet to win investors

In a special report, **Joe Bill** takes a look at the crowdfunding phenomenon and why it is appealing to everyone looking for financial backing, from start-ups to rock bands...

TRYING to secure funding for a start-up business is what many fledgling entrepreneurs can live and die by.

And in these economically stricken times, convincing a lender - be it a bank or investor - that your concept is sound is no easy task.

Yet now there is a new option - harnessing the power of the internet and attracting both traditional investment partners and the very people who may become your natural customer base.

Crowdfunding is here, making a difference, and there is no sign of it disappearing anytime soon.

The concept is simple.

Put forward your proposal for a business online, explain how much is needed as start-up capital and - perhaps most importantly - what's in it for the investor, and hope the potentially global audience wakes up and takes notice.

For many in the entertainment industry it is already proving a viable option.

Increasingly, bands who are no longer with record labels are turning to their fanbase to help fund time in the recording studio.

It is becoming more and more common for acts to issue a menu of options for eager fans to buy into, with proceeds going to funding the recording, for example, of a new CD.

The band get to flex their creative muscle, the fans get a signed CD, their name in the credits, or even, if they're prepared to pay a lot of money, secure a private concert in their own front room.

The trick is allowing everyone to feel part of the process - be it by donating £10 or £1 million.

And for businesses, the obvious offer is equity in their company; a bit like a global Dragons' Den.

The method has been praised for helping start-ups eliminate the need to apply for bank loans with more and more new British firms opting to use other financial sources while banks are not lending freely.

According to innovation charity NESTA, in 2011 crowdfunding

raised \$1.5 billion, mostly in the US, to finance more than a million new projects - and the UK's crowdfunding market is growing rapidly.

However, for many the opportunity remains one they have yet to discover or explore.

And that, according to Roger House, chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) in Kent and Medway, is something which needs to change.

He says recent figures revealed just 37 per cent of FSB members are aware of alternative finance providers, such as peer-to-peer lenders and crowdfunding.

And Mr House is keen to work closely with the UK Crowdfunding Association (UKCFA) to offer small firms advice on how to access finance through crowdfunding.

He said: "Most people's first thought about crowdfunding is pitching on a well-known TV show. If they like your idea, they'll give

Continued on page 49 »

Training, courses & careers

Wind gathers speed to propel future staff into apprenticeships

THE first apprenticeship dedicated to wind turbine installation and commissioning has been launched to help feed the industry with the recruits it needs for the future.

With as many as 70,000 new renewables roles needing to be filled in the next 10 years, the apprenticeship is seen as a key stepping stone into the industry.

Kent has a number of major on and off-shore installations, with some of those firms behind the wind farms already utilising apprenticeships.

In total, some 183 students are studying the required courses at colleges throughout the UK.

The advanced level apprentice-

ships in wind turbine operations and maintenance and wind turbine installation and commissioning – the latter launched in late 2013 – are helping the UK meet Government targets to generate 15 per cent of the UK's energy from renewable sources by 2020.

Neil Robertson is chief executive of Energy & Utility (EU) Skills, the employer-led organisation responsible for benchmarking and developing skills in the sector.

He said: "The power industry employs more than 87,000 people, but faces losing 80 per cent of its existing workforce in the next 10 years, mainly due to retirement of an ageing workforce.



BOOST: Industry is in need of recruiting top quality staff

"This loss in employee numbers, exacerbated by the need for low carbon energy solutions that utilise new technologies and techniques, means we are seeing a skills gap open up.

"In addition, an increase in demand for power means this industry must shift to play its part in maintaining the wellbeing of the UK economy."

By 2024, EU Skills figures show that the power industry needs to recruit 45,000 to 55,000 new employees.

Meanwhile, its recent study with RenewableUK revealed in the last two years direct jobs have increased by 74 per cent, to just under 18,500, with a further 16,000 people in related positions.

Awareness goal for national week

THE countdown is on for this year's National Apprenticeship Week which runs from March 3-7.

Now in its seventh year, the profile-building scheme aims to raise awareness of the benefits of apprenticeships to employers, teachers, parents and workers themselves.

Various toolkits are available to learn more. To access them and find out how to get involved, log-on to the National Apprenticeship Service website at www.apprenticeships.org.uk.

From softball to the staff room

NORTH West Kent College has appointed Rhiannon Hughes as its new deputy principal.

The former Great British softball captain and secondary school head teacher said: "My aim is to work alongside the tutors at NWKC to help develop the teaching and learning.

"I am excited by the prospect of working with the NWKC team."

» What is your business doing to help our young people? If you have a good-news story, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call 01303 817100.

Hub to give boost to start-up companies

A HUB dedicated to helping new companies get started opens in Shepway next month.

The New Romney Business Incubation Centre will provide flexible workspace for 15 start-up businesses on the marsh.

The project has seen Shepway District Council and Romney Resource Centre pledge more

than £70,000 over the next three years with Kent County Council granting £40,000 and socio-economic development group Magnox pledging £100,000.

The new centre at Mountfield Road Industrial Estate, New Romney, offers micro-companies a base and business address as well as IT support.

2014 Excellence in Business Awards to spotlight firms 'at the top of their game'

THE KENT Excellence in Business Awards (KEiBA) are back, designed to recognise the cream of the county's business community.

Now in their sixth year, the awards are run by Kent County Council. The 2014 awards were officially launched last week at a special event at the home of Kent County Cricket Club in Canterbury.

Awards up for grabs include Best Manufacturing Business, Best Land Based Business and Apprenticeship of the Year.

Mark Dance, KCC cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, said: "There is nothing like the KEiBA awards for really throwing the spotlight on the inspiring and successful work of Kent's businesses.

"It's fantastic to add particular recognition for manufacturing businesses – proving again this sector is not dwindling but is in excellent health and brilliantly showcased in Kent.

"The whole of Kent should take great pride in KEiBA because, through the awards, we get a glimpse of how passion, accomplishment and dedication – of entrepreneurs and staff groups – are the heartbeat of the county's business community. As ever, there is a lot to feel good about. It truly is one of the highlights of the county's year."

Geoff Miles, chairman of judges for 2014, said: "The awards represent a great chance for Kent and Medway businesses to run up a flag and show people why they are at the top of their game. That's why I enjoy the KEiBA Awards so

THE CATEGORIES...

- Large Business of the Year
- SME Business of the Year
- Start-up Business of the Year
- Best Leisure and Tourism Business
- Best Land Based Business
- Best Science and/or Technology Business
- Best Manufacturing Business
- Business Commitment to the Community Award
- Business Commitment to the Environment Award
- Success in International Markets
- Employer of the Year Award
- Customer Service and Commitment Award
- Entrepreneur of the Year
- Young Entrepreneur of the Year
- Apprenticeship of the Year

much. They allow our businesses to say, 'This is why we are a great business'."

You can enter your business in up to four categories at www.keiba.co.uk. Deadline is March 7.

The awards are co-organised by media company, the KM.

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CROWDFUNDING IN NUMBERS

£1.64 billion

Global amount raised in 2012

81%

Increase in 2011 figures

1m

Number of crowdfunding campaigns in 2012

£3.1 billion

Estimated figure raised in 2013

Global breakdown



« Continued from page 47

you some money in return for some equity in your business.

"While those people get to pitch in person and answer any questions, crowdfunding means pitching online, so getting it right is more important than ever if you're going to succeed in getting finance.

"The FSB has been an advocate of alternative sources of finance for some time. We believe more people will look at crowdfunding as an investment opportunity as investors can take advantage of tax reliefs if they invest in start-up and early stage businesses."

Having been described as "democratic finance", crowdfunding has also been praised for allowing like-minded people to come together to benefit communities.

Chair of the UK Crowdfunding Association Julia Groves said: "Crowdfunding in its many guises is already filling the gap left by the retail banks, and has to date channelled more than £1 billion of money from the UK public into the real economy.

"Whether you are a very new business raising seed equity to get started, or a more established business seeking a loan to grow or diversify, there are opportunities to bypass the banks and raise this money directly from your customers, neighbours and the general public.

"So you get not just financial backing but the backing of the crowd."

Kent has already seen a number of crowd-funded projects kick-started with solar power firm Abundance Generation targeting a £700,000 renewable energies project on Hoo Farm in Monkton.

And pledging support can have increased positive financial implications for investors.

Crowdfunders can put forward as little as £5 in return for debentures - a type of debt taken on by companies when borrowing money - that commit to pay an inflation-linked return.

Crowdfunders will have their investment paid back to you over time while there will also be an annual income of around seven per cent of the initial investment.

Julia Groves added: "This is an incredibly important and vibrant industry that is already facilitating hundreds of millions of pounds into the engine room of the UK economy."

The UK Crowdfunding Association and Kent and Medway's FSB have come up with some top tips for getting your business crowdfunded...

1 Proper preparation prevents poor performance: Just with trying to get a bank loan, having a clear business plan will demonstrate the business' potential to the crowd. It will help give persuasive answers to the crowd and show them you've done your homework and researched the market and competitors.

2 Make your pitch compelling: Keep the pitch simple and avoid using jargon. This will help potential investors understand who and what they are backing. Consider using video rather than just a written pitch.

3 Market potential, the entrepreneurs and the idea: Investors will want to see you have a good idea that will give them a good return, but also that you have a team that will deliver the end product.

4 Promote you and your venture today: Begin warming up the crowd with the idea so they are eager to invest when the pitch goes live.

5 Be realistic: Don't be overly ambitious with the funding target and don't over value the business as this can put the crowd off. Set realistic targets which you can back up when the crowd asks questions.

A little research could see your company get tax relief on R&D costs

Are you aware of tax relief that could see your company claim back thousands of pounds? **Malcolm Trotter** explains how those involved in research and development projects could cash in.

COMPANIES in Kent that research and develop their own new products could be missing out on a Government incentive scheme worth thousands of pounds.

Designed to encourage innovation, research and development, tax relief allows companies to claim a corporation tax refund on research and development (R&D) expenses, or get a cash payment, for specific projects.

There is a misconception, perhaps brought about by the use of the phrase 'research and development', that to take advantage you have to be a scientist to qualify; but that isn't the case.

There are two distinct schemes, one for large companies and one for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

SMEs are defined as having a staff headcount of less than 500, an annual turnover not exceeding £100 million and a balance sheet total not exceeding £86m. They can claim tax relief at 225

per cent, meaning that for each £100 of expenditure, corporation tax profits are reduced by £125 on top of the £100 spent.

However, if the company is making a loss, they can apply for a cash payment.

To qualify, companies must be eligible for, but not necessarily paying, corporation tax which rules out sole traders and partnerships, and

must have developed and be manufacturing their own products that can demonstrate a technical advance accomplished by that firm.

That can include the development of an entirely new product, or making improvements to an existing one through manufacturing, design work, software development, or work on a process improving internal efficiencies using exist-

ing technologies in a unique way or combining them in an original manner.

The scheme covers expenditure on staffing costs, consumable and transformable materials, externally provided workers and payment to contractors.

The scheme covers a wide range of activities and the application process can appear daunting, but the financial rewards should act as an incentive to embark on the process.

Claims must be made within two years of the development of the product, meaning compa-

nies have to act swiftly to benefit, so it is better to update records as you progress, rather than compiling them on completion of the project.

For more information on the International Association of Book-keepers visit www.iab.org.uk.

■ **Malcolm Trotter**, chief executive of the International Association of Book-keepers, based at Kings Hill.



HELP: Malcolm Trotter

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By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Preview

Mini hatchback

Price:	from £15,300
Driving appeal:	★★★★★ (predicted)
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Citroën DS3

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KENT LIFE

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MORPHING MINI: Style icon's new look offers more room, more economy, more technology, more on-the-road fun and even more personalisation

Mini adventure runs on

Evergreen motoring soap star and style icon gets a new lease of life after being redeveloped from the ground up

IT'S the most popular motoring soap opera of all – the Mini adventure.

It started in 1959 when the tiny original caught the eye of celebrities and image-makers and became a Swinging Sixties icon.

And just when the old BMC/Rover Mini series was wearing thin, BMW – the brand's new owner – launched an all-new Mini for modern times in 2001, upholding its British-ness by maintaining production in the UK.

The modern Mini era now enters a third season or generation with an all-new model due this spring, priced from £15,300 – a 3 per cent increase over the outgoing version.

Production has already started at Mini HQ in Oxford and BMW has invested £750 million across that site and two others, at Swindon and Birmingham, so the British icon is also good for British jobs.

It boasts new technology and a family of eco-friendly engines, but while it's all-new from the ground up, there's nothing new about the look – otherwise it wouldn't be a Mini.

Nevertheless, the original two-box design penned by legendary British Motor Corporation engineer Sir Alec Issigonis back in the Fifties has been cleverly stretched by BMW to create variants including convertibles, an SUV and a coupé that are all still recognisably Minis.

So, the third-generation Mini hatchback can be expected to morph into other spin-offs after introducing better technology, engine efficiency and power delivery, driving dynamics, quality and – always a Mini thing – personalisation.

BMW says the new car is quieter and more spacious than before, the latter point long overdue for action, as the car's name had been slightly at odds with its on-road footprint.

Mind you, the car must deliver on interior space and claims for easier access to the rear seats, since overall dimensions have also ballooned by 98mm (length), 44mm (width) and 7mm (height), while the wheelbase – a reliable indication of internal roominess – has grown just 28mm.

The new car is also claimed to be safer, more premium and even more dynamic and performance-orientated than before.

It will stand out further by becoming the first car in its segment with the option of LED headlamps for both dipped and main beam. They are surrounded by a ring of LED daytime running lights and complemented by LED rear-light clusters.

Mindful of the car's cutting edge and youthful image, efforts have also been made to ensure that the newcomer is the "most connected car in its segment", with state-of-the-art infotainment and links to smartphones and other devices.

Along with the familiar Mini exterior, the essence of the Mini dashboard with its big round central display – echoing the Issigonis original's central speedo – is also retained, though speed, revs and fuel level are displayed directly ahead of the driver.

On a practical note, boot space – never a Mini strongpoint – has been boosted by 30 per cent to 211 litres, but that's still short of the rival Citroën DS3's 285 litres.

Three new engines will feature, reducing fuel consumption and CO2 emissions by as much as 27 per cent.

The line-up is: a 134bhp 1.5-litre three-cylinder petrol engine in the entry-level Cooper hatch, a 189bhp 2.0-litre four-cylinder petrol unit in the performance-orientated Cooper S and a 114bhp 1.5-litre three-cylinder diesel in the Cooper D eco star, capable of a combined economy of 80.7mpg and delivering a road-tax-exempt 98g/km of CO2 emissions.

Other view...

the Petrolhead

If the previous two generations are anything to go by, this will be one of the best smallish cars to drive and be seen in.

the Woman Driver

Doesn't everyone want a Mini? This looks even better than before, though I am worried that it's grown to be not quite so 'mini'.

the Eco-warrior

BMW's 'Minimalism' eco technology makes the Mini one of the greener cars on the road – it's a bonus that it is trendy and stylish, too.



PEUGEOT RCZ

2012 (12) **RCZ GT 200bhp** finished in Pearl White with black leather interior/Onyx Black alloy wheels, front/rear parking, climate control, auto lights/wipers, Bluetooth/USB **£17,995**

2009 (09) **308 Coupe Cabriolet** GT HDi 140 finished in Pearlescent White with Black Leather. Climate control, heated seats, parking sensors **£10,495**

PEUGEOT 107

2006 (56) **107 Urban 5dr** finished in Antigua Blue. Very low mileage, full history. Remote locking, electric windows, radio CD/MP3 **£3,995**

2007 (07) **107 Urban 5dr** finished in Laser Red, very low mileage, full history, remote locking, electric windows, radio CD/MP3 **£4,495**

2009 (09) **107 Verve 5dr** finished in Laser Red, low mileage, full history, air conditioning, radio CD/MP3, remote locking, ABS **£5,495**

2010 (60) **107 Urban 5dr** finished in Laser Red, full history, remote locking, radio CD/MP3, electric windows, ABS **£6,250**

2011 (61) **107 Urban 5dr** finished in Diamond White, one owner, full history, low mileage, remote locking, radio CD/MP3, electric windows, ABS **£6,350**

2012 (12) **107 Allure 5dr** finished in Electro Blue, Bluetooth/USB, air conditioning, alloy wheels, front fog/LED daytime running lights **£6,995**

2013 (13) **107 Allure 5dr** finished in Laser Red. Bluetooth/USB, air conditioning, alloy wheels, front fog/LED daytime running lights **£7,750**

PEUGEOT 206/207/208

2004 (53) **206SW XSi 1.6** finished in Black, air conditioning, radio CD, electric windows and mirrors, alloys **£2,500**

2010 (60) **207 Millesim 1.4 5dr** finished in Bianca White, low mileage, one owner, Bluetooth/USB, air conditioning, alloy wheels, electric windows/mirrors **£6,495**

2010 (60) **207 Millesim 1.4 VTI 5dr** finished in Onyx Black, low mileage, one owner, Bluetooth/USB, air conditioning, alloy wheels, electric windows/mirrors **£6,695**

2009 (59) **207SW Sport 1.6 Auto** finished in Inari Blue, full history, one owner, front/

rear parking sensors, panoramic glass roof, Bluetooth/USB, climate control, auto lights/wipers **£7,250**

2013 (13) **208 Access 1.0 3dr** finished in Bianca White, Radio CD/MP3, electric windows, remote locking **£7,995**

2012 (62) **208 Active HDi (70) 3dr** finished in Silver. Touch Screen Bluetooth/USB, cruise control, alloys, front fog lights **£9,495**

2012 (62) **208 Active 1.0 VTI 5dr** finished in Aluminium Silver, very low mileage, touch screen Bluetooth/USB, parking aid, air conditioning, alloys **£9,995**

2013 (13) **208 Allure 1.2 VTI 5dr** finished in Rioja Red, climate control, auto lights and wipers, electric pack, touch screen DAB/Bluetooth/USB **£11,995**

2013 (13) **208 GTi 200bhp** finished in Bianca White with Leather/Alcantara interior, Ex-demonstrator, touch screen satnav **£15,995**

PEUGEOT 307/308/3008

2005 (54) **307 SW SE HDi 110** finished in Aluminium Silver. Panoramic roof, climate control **£2,875**

2013 (13) **308 Active HDi (92) Navigation** finished in Egyptian Blue metallic. Full colour satnav, Bluetooth/USB, parking sensors, folding mirrors, climate control, auto lights/wipers **£11,495**

2013 (13) **3008 Active HDi (115)** finished in Aluminium. Bluetooth/USB, auto lights/wipers, parking sensors, cruise control **£13,995**

PEUGEOT 508

2013 (13) **508 Allure HDi 140** finished in Aluminium, full colour satnav, Bluetooth/USB, auto lights/wipers, parking sensors, 'open&go' system **£14,995**

LCV

2013 (13) **Partner Professional HDi** finished in Bianca White with ply lined interior, bulkhead, kerb side loading door, Bluetooth/USB **£8,995 plus VAT**

2012 (62) **Boxer L1 H1 HDi 110 Professional** finished in Aluminium Silver with ply lined interior, Bluetooth/USB, air conditioning, bulkhead **£9,950 VAT**

OTHER MAKES

2003 (03) **Volkswagen Polo E 1.2** finished in Silver **£2,200**

2007 (07) **Renault Megane Dynamique CC** finished in Silver, just 22,000 miles, Panoramic roof, air conditioning, auto lights/wipers **£4,995**

2006 (06) **Suzuki Jimny J1X+ 1.3 Estate** finished in metallic Blue, just 17,800 miles, full history, 4WD (high and low ratio), detachable tow bar **£5,995**

2010 (60) **Renault Grand Scenic Dynamique TomTom (7 Seat)** finished in Silver. Satnav, auto lights/wipers, air conditioning, radio/CD **£7,750**

2010 (60) **Renault Scenic Dynamique TomTom 1.5 DCi** finished in Silver, Satnav, auto lights/wipers, air conditioning, radio/CD **£7,995**

2008 (57) **Volkswagen Golf Match TDI Automatic** finished in Blue, air conditioning, radio CD **£8,995**

2013 (13) 208 Access 1.0 3dr

- Radio CD with MP3 Input
- Remote Locking
- Electric Windows
- £0 Annual Road Tax



£137 per month

2013 (13) 107 Allure 5dr

- Radio/CD/Bluetooth/USB
- LED Running Lights
- Air Conditioning
- Alloys



£136 per month

2013 (13) 3008 Sport HDi 115

- Automatic headlights and wipers
- Cruise Control/Speed limiter
- Parking sensors
- Bluetooth and USB



£225 per month

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£12,000



Mercedes B180
(black)
7841 miles
£16,987



Mercedes C320
(silver)
112,644 miles
£10,000



Mercedes C220
(red)
54,256 miles
£9000



Mercedes C180
(blue)
47,188 miles
£13,000



Mercedes C250
(silver)
34,028 miles
£13,999



Mercedes C350
(white)
31,108 miles
£16,000



Mercedes
C220
(black)
£20,000



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(brown)
84,346 miles
£12,000



Mercedes E350
(silver)
33,999 miles
£19,888



Mercedes A160
Se (green)
9178 miles
£9500



Mercedes E220
(black)
30,564 miles
£21,500



Mercedes E250
(red)
16,502 miles
£25,000



Mercedes E220
(black)
1721 miles
£34,500



Mercedes R320
(black)
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TURNED ON: Vauxhall's 'range extender' is a frugal, pioneering and futuristic petrol-electric Ampera marvel, but it isn't cheap, writes **Steve Loader**

Ball-watching unlocks the Ampera's charms

Vauxhall prefers the term 'range extender' to describe its frugal, pioneering and futuristic petrol-electric Ampera marvel, but it isn't cheap, writes **Steve Loader**

It would take ages to get bored with the sci-fi dashboard of the Vauxhall Ampera.

This tech gurus' delight includes two screens – the central infotainment touchscreen and the driver's dead-ahead instrument display – and a plethora of touch-sensitive ancillary switches. And it's not all smoke and mirrors to disguise a relatively ordinary car, either, for the Ampera – and its rarer Chevrolet clone, the Volt – are the only 'range extender' cars on our roads.

Vauxhall uses that term to differentiate the Ampera from what we would normally call a hybrid, with both electric and internal combustion power on board and able to drive the wheels, but the Ampera's 85bhp 1.4-litre engine does not demean its horsepower this way.

Instead, it runs in the background, generating battery power for the 148bhp electric motor that keeps the front-driven Ampera moving.

The beauty here is that the petrol engine is never stressed, remains frugal and may never have to fire up if you keep the Ampera's batteries topped up by plugging in at home, the office or a public charging point.

It may actually cost peanuts and emit no CO₂ if you use it on a 25- to 50-mile commute, but the petrol tank allows more than 300 miles' range before filling up conventionally if needed – for weekends and holidays, for instance – making the car independent of charging points.

In this way it avoids the driver's range-anxiety nightmare afflicting battery-only electric cars, ie what happens if you run out of juice? Well, you hitch a ride, board a bus, call a

Vauxhall Ampera Positiv

Price:	£28,750 (with Govt grant)
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Road tax:	£20/year (£0 year one)
Best rival:	Toyota Prius Plug-In

Kent dealers

Perrys:

Canterbury	01227 710333
Whitfield	01304 827500
Broadstairs	01843 600777
Sittingbourne	01795 393126

FG Barnes:

Maidstone	08442 475185
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Caffyns:

Ashford	01233 504604
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Hidsons:

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taxi or book into a hotel.

Ampera drivers, on the other hand, simply carry on, knowing the onboard petrol unit has quietly fired up to carry on the journey.

So why aren't there more Amperas around? The key reason is cost.



Prices start at £33,750 for what is effectively an Astra-size four-seat hatchback.

The price is no less jaw-dropping when you adjust downwards by £5,000 to take in the Government's grant for electric cars, though I would rather this than pay top dollar for a conventional electric car and still have range anxiety.

And Ampera buyers enjoy a premium experience for all that money; Vauxhall realised they might otherwise be seduced by eco models from brands with badges more premium than its own.

Futuristic sci-fi refinement comes from excellent sound-proofing and a ride tuned to ignore everything from dual carriageways to flaky rural lanes with dodgy cambers.

It's a bit dippy-hippy in the handling department, though: it's fully automatic and if you wind it up – inevitably winding those batteries down – you feel the weight of those

twin powertrains, batteries and fuel.

This sees the car wanting to run wide if you get silly on a bend, but the racy looks are at least justified by the electric motor's instant thrust and 0-62mph in 8.7 seconds.

And it does feel like a coupé inside with its low roofline, flashy dash and separate rear seats – caused by slight intrusion from the T-shaped battery array.

While this arrangement makes it a definite four-seater, it is a comfortable one with proper boot, top spec sounds and heated seats.

The array of information is impressive, but you can simply get into the car and drive – just watch the green ball on the screen dead ahead.

Drive steadily and it floats serenely in the middle of its tube-like gauge; floor the throttle or brake hard, though, and it bounces up or down and burns bright – the message is obvious and you soon adjust your driving without ball-watching.



Honda's high 'five'

HONDA has thrown down the gauntlet in a new round of motoring 'warranty wars' with a tempting peace-of-mind ownership package: five years' servicing, warranty and roadside assistance for just £500.

Not that many owners will need the breakdown element, since Honda regularly wins reliability awards.

Known as 'Five', the deal can also be linked with three-year zero per cent finance on Honda's British-built Jazz, Civic and CR-V models.



A new-look 5008

PEUGEOT has taken what is possibly one of the most stylish seven-seat MPVs and made it look even classier, having facelifted its 5008 model to harmonise it with the corporate front end on the more recently launched 208 supermini and 2008 junior crossover.

The 5008 line-up has also gained internal upgrades, more spec and revised pricing (from £18,800) while retaining five individually retractable rear seats and folding front passenger seat.



GTC's new engine

VAUXHALL'S exciting new 1.6-litre petrol engine, first used to energise its stylish Cascada four-seat convertible, is now offered in the racy three-door Astra GTC to create a cut-price alternative to the brand's £26,995 Astra VXR flagship.

For £6,000 less, the 200PS (197bhp) Astra GTC becomes the most powerful non-VXR model in the Astra range, allowing 0-60mph in 7.3 seconds, allied with great refinement for a sporting car, says Vauxhall.

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EXCLUDING ALFA RED SPECIAL PAINT

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Total Amount Payable by Customer	£17,261
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*Model shown: Alfa MiTo 875cc TB TwinAir 105 bhp Sportiva at £15,550 Offer Price† including £750 Customer Saving† & excluding Alfa Red Special Paint at £450. Range of official fuel consumption figures for the Alfa MiTo range: Urban 34.9 – 64.2 mpg (8.1 – 4.4 l/100km); Extra Urban 58.9 – 97.4 mpg (4.8 – 2.9 l/100km); Combined 47.1 – 80.7 mpg (6.0 – 3.5 l/100km). CO2 emissions 139 – 90 g/km.

†Fuel consumption and CO2 figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EC directives/regulations and may not be representative of real-life driving conditions. Factors such as driving style, weather and road conditions may also have a significant effect on fuel consumption.

*With Alfa Romeo Preferenza you have the option to return the vehicle and not pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having exceeded an agreed annual mileage (a charge of 6p per mile for exceeding 6,000 miles per annum in these examples) and being in good condition. Offers may be withdrawn or amended without prior notification. Offer subject to status, a guarantee and/or indemnity may be required. Terms and Conditions apply. Alfa Romeo Financial Services, PO Box 4465, Slough SL1 0RW. Offer applies to vehicles registered between 3 January – 31 March 2014 on Alfa MiTo models.

†Offer price of £15,550 is based on an Alfa MiTo 875cc TB TwinAir 105 bhp Sportiva & includes the £750 customer saving and includes 12 months' road fund licence, first vehicle registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. Figures correct at time of printing. Offer subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. See our website for full details.

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**Northfleet
School for Girls**

**Facilities Manager
Northfleet School for Girls
Gravesend, Kent**

Full Time Post

(52 weeks/37 hours weekly – KS8 £23,018 to £26,952 per annum)

We are a highly successful and ambitious 11-18 school. Our 2012 Ofsted has recognised that Northfleet School for Girls is a “good” school.

Recently redesigned, this Co-Operative Learning Trust School offers an exciting opportunity to work in a collegiate atmosphere where our motto “Always Learning, Learning All Ways” applies to everyone. The school has a strong sense of community and a belief in the values of self and social responsibility.

This new role will include responsibility for premises and grounds including the building maintenance, building access and fire and security computerised systems, to provide a high quality and effective school environment meeting statutory compliance and best practice.

**FURTHER INFORMATION, INCLUDING FULL JOB DESCRIPTION
AND APPLICATION FORM, AVAILABLE ON OUR SCHOOL
WEBSITE - www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk**

Closing date for Applications: Noon, Friday 31 January 2014

Interviews anticipated: w/c 10 February 2014



Carer Support Workers

Starting salary £18,200 – £19,500 per annum 37.5 hours per week
One year fixed term (with possibility to extend)

Team Leader

Starting salary £22,000 - £24,000 per annum 37.5 hours per week
One year fixed term (with possibility to extend)

Carers' Support – Canterbury, Dover & Thanet provide support to Carers who provide unpaid help and support to a relative, friend or neighbour, who otherwise could not manage due to physical or mental illness, addiction or disability.

We are one of the lead members of the East Kent Carers' Consortium and have been commissioned by KCC and Health to deliver services to Carers across the Canterbury, Dover and Thanet areas. This is an exciting time for us and we are looking to recruit some additional staff to help us meet the requirements of a demanding service specification.

We are committed to providing consistently high quality support and advice services (both practical and emotional) to Carers across our area, and to reaching Carers who may face particular problems in finding the help they need to carry on Caring.

Carer Support Worker: We are looking for a confident, adaptable, versatile and sensitive person who will work with us to support Carers. Your main role will be to provide support and information to Carers on the phone or to those calling in at our Carers' Centre and at outreach locations. You will also liaise with other agencies, facilitate support groups, attend events and complete one to one Carer's Assessments in client's homes.

A full driving licence and your own transport are essential.

Team Leader: We wish to recruit someone to support the senior management team and to have day to day responsibility for the operational work of the organisation. You will lead a team of 10-12 staff under the direction of the CEO. You will need to be confident, calm, motivated and an excellent communicator. You must have proven experience of a similar role, ideally in the voluntary sector.

For an application pack, please write to: Tricia Cole CEO, Carers' Support – Canterbury, Dover & Thanet 80 Middle Street, Deal, Kent CT14 6HL or email: Admin@carers-doverdistrict.org

CV's will not be considered

Closing date for returned applications: Friday 24th January 2014.

Interviews will be held on Tuesday 4th February and Wednesday 5th February 2014.

Registered Charity No.1136904 Co Ltd by Guarantee no.7213672



CHARITY DIRECTOR

Maidstone Community Support Centre (MCSC) is a charity in the centre of town, which manages an important building housing about 30 community groups and charitable organisations.

It also offers a range of services from the building, including meeting rooms, halls, catering, and training space. The board has three vacancies, one for a property professional, one for a catering professional and one for a generalist with a rounded charity background.

These are unpaid positions with all out-of-pocket expenses paid.

We are in a period of growth and are seeking to expand and strengthen the size and skills of our governance arrangements.

**A role description can be obtained from
01622 690369 or admin@mcsc.org.uk**

If you are interested in any of these rewarding positions please send your CV, plus any other relevant particulars to Mike Evans, Chairman of MCSC, MCSC 39-48 Marsham Street, Maidstone, Kent. ME14 1HH.



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For an application pack contact Frances on 01634 264 611 or email gillingham@guardianhomecare.co.uk

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Bradstow School

Bradstow is a creative and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19. It is situated in 13 acres of parkland just a few hundred metres from the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We seek to meet the needs of children and young people with autism and severe learning difficulties with associated behaviours that may be challenging. We have achieved national recognition for our developments in Communication and Behaviour Management.

DUE TO EXPANDING OUR PROVISION WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES:

DEPUTY REGISTERED MANAGER

A Deputy Registered Manager is required who will be part of providing flexible and extended provision for the children and young people who currently attend Bradstow School. We are looking for a deputy manager with proven managerial and leadership skills, and a knowledge of supporting children and young people with learning disabilities, autism and associated challenging behaviours within Children's Home Regulations.

£30,646 - £33,119 - 41 hours per week, (including late/early shifts and weekends) All Year Round

HOUSEPARENTS - EXTENDED PROVISION

Working as part of the childcare teams, this role involves providing care and support to children and young people mornings, evenings and weekends being a child or young person's Keyworker and some management responsibility.

£22,227 - £25,172 - 41 hours per week, (including late/early shifts and weekends) All Year Round

FEMALE WAKING NIGHT ATTENDANTS

To be responsible for the supervision and care of the children and young people at night.

£22,954 - £25,582 (including ½ night allowance) - 36½ hours per week, (including late/early shifts and weekends) All Year Round.

Due to the nature of the personal care being provided, Section 7 (2) (a) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 applies.

COMMUNICATION TEAM - LEARNING RESOURCES COORDINATOR

Under the direction of the Speech and Language Therapist, be responsible for developing, maintaining and managing the bespoke high quality differentiated Learning Resources of the school.

£15,992 - £17,704 - 34 hours per week, Mon - Fri, Term Time Only, plus 2 weeks*

COMMUNICATION TEAM - COMMUNICATION FACILITATOR

To provide support to the Speech and Language Therapist in creating, organising and delivering functional communication resources, training and support to class and residences.

£15,992 - £17,704 - 34 hours per week, Mon - Fri, Term Time Only, plus 2 weeks*

GENTLE TEACHING MENTOR (Positive Behaviour Support Assistant)

To ensure that staff are trained, supported and guided to implement the Positive Behaviour Support Strategy of the school, within a culture of Gentle Teaching. To comply with the requirements of the behaviour support training models whilst supporting staff in class and residences.

£15,992 - £17,704 - 34 hours per week, Mon - Fri, Term Time Only, plus 2 weeks*

TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS - Education

The successful applicants will be responsible for assisting teachers in the classrooms. These roles are aimed at candidates with some experience of classroom work.

£12,891 - £13,689 - 37½ hours per week, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mon-Fri - Term time only, plus 2 weeks*

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

The successful applicants will be responsible for assisting teachers in the classrooms. No experience required, full training will be given.

£11,596 - £12,111 - 37½ hours per week, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mon-Fri - Term time only, plus 2 weeks*

HOUSEPARENT - Term Time

Working as part of the childcare team, this role involves providing care and support to the children and young people mornings, evenings and weekends being a child and young person's Keyworker and some management responsibility.

£19,817 - £22,443 per annum - 41 hours per week (including split shifts and weekends) - Term time only, plus 2 weeks*

TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS - Residential Care

As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to the children and young people in childcare teams mornings, evenings and weekends. These roles are aimed at candidates with some experience of Care work.

£14,013 - £14,880 plus 10% per annum - 41 hours per week, (including weekends) - Term time only, plus 2 weeks*

CHILDCARE SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

As part of the childcare teams, these roles involve providing care and support to the children and young people mornings, evenings and weekends. No experience required, full training will be given.

£11,286 - £11,784 plus 10% per annum - 36.5 hours per week, (including weekends - more hours available) - Term time only, plus 2 weeks*

EVENING HOUSEKEEPING ASSISTANT

To undertake general cleaning duties and maintain an acceptable standard of cleanliness and hygiene at Bradstow.

£5,856 - £6,077 per annum - 20 hours per week, 4-8 pm Mon-Fri, - Term time only, plus two weeks

FLEXIBANK TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS

To provide additional support a cover within either the classrooms or residences.

Flexi-bank - £7.26 per hour - When required (up to 41 hours per week including split shifts and weekends)

***For these roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid.**

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, warm, creative and open to learning with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk Or you may call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine).

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is 5pm, Thursday 6th February 2014.

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Start date Early February

This post is for a highly organised individual to provide administrative support to the Facilities Manager at Kent Science Park. Key tasks to include: financial / order & invoice processing, upkeep of technical computerised and paper records relating to the management and refurbishment of buildings, equipment and services on the site. In addition you will be assisting the Facilities Manager with and co-ordinating contractors, tenants and the site maintenance team to ensure work is completed on time and on budget.

You will be a proficient user of Microsoft Outlook, Excel and Word and capable of quickly picking up other computer programs (training will be given). Regular written communication with tenants is also a key part of the job so a confident manner when dealing with all levels of tenants contractors and staff is essential.

In the first instance please contact Christine, Joanne or Stephen on 01795 411 500 or reception@ksp-uk.com who will post or email you a detailed job description

All CVs and covering letters to be received by 27th January 2014



THE NEW SCHOOL AT WEST HEATH SEVENOAKS TN13 1SR

"Rebuilding lives through education"

Principal & Chief Executive: Christina Wells

The New School at West Heath is a Specialist Independent School catering for a diverse range of needs for boys and girls age 11 - 19, many of whom have emotional and social communication difficulties. Prior to coming to us, some of our students will have been excluded from mainstream education for a period of time. Here they find a strong therapeutic approach to learning. The School has approval status from the Department for Children, School and families and has an excellent rapport with both parents and Local Authorities. The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

We are proud to be an "Outstanding School" (Ofsted 2013)

Due to internal promotion we have the following vacancy

LEARNING DIRECTOR - Post 16

Salary Scale L12 - L14

The Learning Director will be responsible for developing and managing a comprehensive and flexible range of services to meet the curriculum and other needs of our students, whilst ensuring the department operates in an efficient and effective manner.

Contact **Lynne McGrath** for an application form and job description
Email: **personnel@westheathschoo.com** Tel: **01732 460 553**

The successful applicant will be subject to an enhanced DBS check



www.bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

Swale Academies Trust



Westlands School

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

Teaching Assistant

Required for February 2014

Salary £13,162 - £16,305 (pro rata)

(equal to £7,944 to £9,841 depending on experience)

This is a temporary, term time only role for 27 hrs per week, worked over five days

Applicants should have the necessary skills to support pupils who have ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder) in mainstream classes, in small groups or on an individual basis. Candidates would be expected to have good literacy and numeracy skills. As part of the interview, you may be asked to show your skills in supporting pupils.

Office Assistant

Required from February 2014

Salary £13,162 - £16,305 (pro rata)

(equal to £7,944 to £9,841 depending on experience)

This is a permanent role, term time plus 3 weeks in the school holidays.

25 hours per week, over 5 days, 8.30 am - 1.30pm

This successful secondary school is seeking an Office Assistant to join its effective and dedicated team of Administration staff. Primary duties will be that of Receptionist.

The successful applicant will be the first point of contact for visitors and callers to the school, and will need to demonstrate personal qualities such as excellent communication skills and the ability to remain polite and professional at all times. Applicants should also have some experience of working in a customer service environment or in a busy office.

Other duties will include clerical tasks; therefore a working knowledge of Microsoft Office packages is required.

Recruitment packs including a person specification and job description are available from Westlands School or online (www.westlands.org.uk). Please note that we cannot accept CVs without an application form. Applicants should also include a covering letter detailing how they meet the person specification.

Closing date: 29 January 2014 at noon.

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Contact Details

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461

Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732
Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS



www.sevenoaks.gov.uk

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Ref: DBK.003

Salary Band C1, £20,961 - £23,004 pa

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Interview dates: 20 and 21 February 2014.

Semi-skilled Operative

Ref: DBK.004

Salary Band C1, £20,961 - £23,004 pa

You will assist with construction work and other assigned duties throughout the district. You must be physically fit and able to deal with the physical demands of the work, including heavy lifting and hold a LGV Class 2 licence.

Interview date: 13 February 2014.

For an informal discussion about the above two posts, please contact John Cox, Cleansing Manager on 01959 567375.

HGV Fitter

Ref: DBK.005

Salary Band D1, £25,453 - £27,884 pa

You will be responsible for routine inspection, maintenance and repair of the Council's fleet of vehicles and plant. You must be able to diagnose faults by road testing and use laptop diagnostic software where appropriate and carry out MOT tests and tests on hackney carriage and private hire vehicles as required.

Interview date: 12 February 2014.

For an informal discussion about this post, please contact Ken Naylor, Transport Manager on 01959 567376.

Full details for each advert, job description and personal specifications can be found on the Sevenoaks website.

To apply online, please visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/jobs or to request an application pack, please phone 01732 227383 quoting the relevant reference number.

Closing date for all vacancies: 29 January 2014 at 12pm.

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The Spencer Private Hospital is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEOM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Staff Nurse (Night Duty) – Part Time

(15 hours per week)

£25,000 per annum (pro-rata)

Dependant on experience

Based in Margate

Qualifications

Registered Nurse Level 1

Evidence of Continuous Professional Development

Experience in a surgical/medical environment with a knowledge and understanding of surgical/medical procedures.

To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:

Mary Guarnieri, Matron 01843 234252

Physiotherapist – Part Time

(30 hours per week)

£27,000 per annum (pro-rata)

Based in Margate

Qualifications

Minimum 2 years post graduate experience

Current Registration with Health Professional Council

Experience of assessing & treating orthopaedic inpatients & MSK related outpatients

To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:

Sarah Robinson, Physiotherapy Manager 01843 234555

Physiotherapy Administrator – Part Time

(15 hours per week)

Hours: 1pm – 4pm Monday - Friday

£13,686.75 - £14,664.37 per annum (pro-rata)

Dependant on experience

Based in Margate

Qualifications

RSA Stage 1 or II equivalent

Two years' experience working in a health environment. General Secretarial experience essential.

To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:

Sarah Robinson, Physiotherapy Manager 01843 234555

Medical Secretary – Part Time

(30 hrs per week)

£15,642 per annum (pro-rata)

Based in Margate

Qualifications

Maths and English (GCSE or Equivalent). Two years experience working in a medical environment

Audio Typing experience essential

(Previous applicants need not apply)

To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:

Julie Pain, Administration Supervisor 01843 234555 x62209

Closing date for applications 3 February 2014

For a job description and application form please contact:

Jo Wright, East Kent Medical Services Ltd

Spencer Private Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG

Telephone: 01304 245961 Fax: 01304 207320

E-mail: joanne.wright@spencerhospitals.com

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- Fitting tyres to alloy wheels.
- Balancing wheel/tyre units.
- Maintaining equipment.
- Maintaining a clean environment.

Criteria:

Experience not essential, (but would be beneficial)
Full on-site training given.
Applicants must be hard working, polite, friendly, computer literate and work well within a team.

All applications to be submitted by 31st January 2014

Hours: 40 hours per week (9:00 - 6:00 Mon-Fri)

Holiday Entitlement: 28 days / Salary: £7.75 - £8.50 per hour

For further information please contact

Mr Toby Woods or Mr Gary Matthews

Tel: 01233 503006 or Email: sales@rimstyle.com

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and Archant KOS Media Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
4. All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to Archant KOS Media Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by Archant KOS Media Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies Archant KOS Media Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
6. Archant KOS Media Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
7. Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by Archant KOS Media Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to Archant KOS Media Ltd.
8. Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the width of the print advertisement. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
9. Archant KOS Media Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
10. A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error or inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.
11. No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
12. Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with Archant KOS Media Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.
13. Archant KOS Media Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
14. Archant KOS Media Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. Archant KOS Media Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.
15. Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after their insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from Archant KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with Archant KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per Archant KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be applied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
17. Seasonal contracts. Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by Archant KOS Media Ltd within the advertiser's agreement. (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), Archant KOS Media Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use Archant KOS Media Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered and that Archant KOS Media Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any charges for failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in Archant KOS Media Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a commercial or photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of the membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
20. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within Archant KOS Media Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than that is ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
21. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of Archant KOS Media Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via Archant KOS Media Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
22. a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to Archant KOS Media Ltd shall be paid in full by the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
b. In the event that payment is not received by Archant KOS Media Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
c. In the event that payment is not received by Archant KOS Media Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
d. Notwithstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of Archant KOS Media Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by Archant KOS Media Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
23. Any discount which Archant KOS Media Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. The commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by Archant KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify Archant KOS Media Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the Archant KOS Media Group in the event of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
28. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to Archant KOS Media Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent. All terms and conditions stated on the order are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. Archant KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions. Effective from June 2008

Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR
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Email: info@kosmedia.co.uk

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Week ending January 19, 2014 57

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

S W YORKE & SONS LIMITED OF 4 MALT HOUSE COTTAGES, DEAN ST, EAST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, ME15 0PS is applying for a licence to use 4 MALT HOUSE COTTAGES, DEAN ST, EAST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, ME15 0PS as an operating centre for 8 goods vehicles and 0 trailers. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use of enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF, stating their reasons within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Ling Metals Limited of 6-7 Stone Way, Lakesview Business Park, Hersden, Canterbury, Kent CT3 4GP is applying to change an existing licence as follows

To add an operating centre to keep 16 goods vehicles and 8 trailers at 6-7 Stone Way, Lakesview Business Park, Hersden, Canterbury, Kent CT3 4GP

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.



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THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y14/0005/SH - 10 Clifton Crescent Folkestone Kent CT20 2EW - 50% reduction in height of a row of Conifers situated within a conservation area

Y14/0013/SH - The Battery The Bayle Folkestone Kent CT20 1SQ - Crown reduction of three Sycamore trees situated within a conservation area

Y13/1252/SH1 - Saltwood House Rectory Lane Saltwood Hythe Kent - Listed Building Consent for removal of stone wall planter to ground floor kitchen wall and installation of geotext membrane and aqua drain to wall adjacent to pantry and utility rooms

Y13/1230/SH1 - Port Lympne Aldington Road Lympne Kent CT21 4PD - Listed Building Consent to erect new partition to provide en-suite bathroom to 1st floor, install fire doors and upgrading fire resistance of existing doors to ground and 1st floor.

Y13/1254/SH - 9 - 17 Sandgate Road Folkestone Kent CT20 1SB - Display of replacement internally illuminated fascia sign and aluminium fascia panel together with an internally illuminated double sided projecting sign to front elevation and replacement vinyl graphic to rear elevation.

Y13/1236/SH1 - Seamore Dungeness Road Dungeness Romney Marsh Kent - Extension of existing garden shed/workshop.

Y13/1295/SH# - Ocean View Dungeness Road Dungeness Romney Marsh Kent - Erection of a replacement detached garage.

Y13/1178/SH# - 1 Coastguard Cottage Dungeness Road Dungeness Romney Marsh Kent - Change of use and conversion of existing store to two holiday lets including erection of an extension and other external alterations.

Y13/1266/SH# - Penny Cottage Dungeness Road Dungeness Romney Marsh Kent - Section 73 application to vary condition 2 and remove condition 7 of planning permission Y13/0442/SH to enable the design to be amended as a minor material amendment, including alterations to the chimney, provision of air source heat pump to existing shed and removal of solar panels.

Y14/0023/SH - St Nicholas Church School Lane Newington Kent - Pruning of a Yew tree situated within a conservation area.

Y13/1122/SH - Flat 3 27 Castle Hill Avenue Folkestone Kent CT20 2QU - Installation of uPVC windows to flat 3.

Y13/1195/SH - St Nicholas Church School Lane Newington Kent - Erection of a side extension to existing porch entrance and trench arch drainage system.

Y13/1276/SH - Guildhall Street Folkestone Kent - Variation of condition 4 of planning permission Y08/1210/SH to allow three additional market days within the week preceding Christmas Day.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

† - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010 (AS AMENDED)

**KCC/AS/0378/2013 - Proposed development at the
former site of Ashford Day Opportunities Service,
St Stephens Walk, Ashford, Kent TN23 5BD**

Galliford Try Investments Ltd and Kent County Council Adult Services is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for the demolition of a redundant Ashford Day Opportunities Service building to be replaced with a development of 12 flats to provide move on accommodation for individuals.

You may view this application via computer link at the following locations:

- Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford
- Tenterden Gateway, 2 Manor Row, High Street, Tenterden

**KCC/AS/0379/2013 - Proposed development at
Land at Little Hill, Wayside, St Michaels, Tenterden,
Kent TN30 6DF**

Galliford Try Investments Ltd and Kent County Council Adult Services is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for demolition of an existing one and two storey care home with pitched roof and the construction of an extra care building of 1, 2 and 3 storeys containing 41 flats and associated communal and community facilities. The development site is in close proximity to, and may affect, a public right of way.

You may view this application via computer link at the following locations:

- Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford
- Tenterden Gateway, 2 Manor Row, High Street, Tenterden

**KCC/DA/0382/2013 - Proposed development at
Manorbrooke Residential Home, Bevis Close, Dartford,
Kent DA2 6HB**

Galliford Try Investments Ltd and Kent County Council Adult Services is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for demolition of an existing 1 and 2 storey nursing home and the construction of an extra care building of 1, 2 and 3 storeys containing 40 flats and associated communal and community facilities.

You may view this application at Dartford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent DA1 1DR.

**KCC/DO/0385/2013 - Proposed development at
Cornfields, Cranleigh Drive, Whitfield, Dover,
Kent CT16 3NW**

Galliford Try Investments Ltd and Kent County Council Adult Services is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for the demolition of an existing one and two storey nursing home with pitched roof and the construction of an extra care building of 1, 2 and 3 storeys containing 40 flats and associated communal and community facilities. The proposals include the creation of a new entrance into the site with associated crossover.

You may view this application at Dover District Council, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent CT16 3PJ.

**KCC/TH/0383/2013 - Proposed development at
Former Newington Primary School, Melbourne Avenue,
Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6JS**

Galliford Try Investments Ltd and Kent County Council Adult Services is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for demolition of an existing one and two storey primary school with pitched roof and the construction of an extra care building of 2 and 3 storeys containing 49 flats and associated communal and community facilities, and alterations and widening of existing access onto Melbourne Avenue. The proposed development affects a public right of way.

You may view this application at Thanet District Council, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent CT9 1XZ.

**KCC/TH/0384/2013 - Proposed development at
Newington Library, Newington Road, Ramsgate, Kent
CT12 6PX**

Galliford Try Investments Ltd and Kent County Council Adult Services is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for the demolition of a redundant library building to be replaced with a development of 10 flats to provide accommodation for individuals with mental health issues. The development site is in close proximity to, and may affect a public right of way.

You may view this application at Thanet District Council, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent CT9 1XZ.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planningrepresentations@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 14 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough/District Council website.

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

**KCC/TW/0374/2013 - Proposed development at
Lamberhurst St Marys C of E School, Pearse Place,
Lamberhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 8EJ**

KCC Property is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission to extend and adapt St Mary's C of E Primary School to accommodate a 1FE school. The proposals include a 2 classroom extension at first floor level including storage and additional toilet, plus an outreach room and toilet facilities at ground floor level and 2 additional parking spaces. The proposed development is near to the Lamberhurst Conservation Area and may affect its character and/or appearance, and may also affect the setting of a listed building.

You may view this application at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2AB.

**KCC/TW/0381/2013 - Proposed development at
Bowles Lodge, All Saints Road, Hawkhurst, Cranbrook,
Kent TN18 4HT**

Galliford Try Investments Ltd and Kent County Council Adult Services is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for demolition of an existing single storey with pitched roof, nursing home and the construction of an extra care building of 2 and 3 storeys containing 48 flats and associated communal and community facilities. The proposed development is near to the Hawkhurst Highgate and All Saints Church Conservation Area and may affect its character and/or appearance, and may also affect the setting of a listed building.

You may view this application at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2AB.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planningrepresentations@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 22

**FURTHER INFORMATION RELATING TO AN APPLICATION
(KCC/DA/0201/2013) DATED 20 JUNE 2013 FOR
PLANNING PERMISSION ACCOMPANIED BY AN
ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND)
ORDER 2010 (AS AMENDED)**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2011**

**KCC/DA/0201/2013 - Proposed development at land at
Manor Way Business Park, Swanscombe, Kent**

Further to my notice published on 4 August 2013 under the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010 (as amended) which advised that Teal Energy Ltd is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for construction of a Renewable Energy Facility involving Advanced Thermal Technology to generate energy in the form of combined heat and electricity by using residual waste materials as a fuelstock and converting them into a gas and that the application is accompanied by an environmental statement, I give notice that further information is now available in relation to that environmental statement.

The further information includes amended drawings making reference to the roof design, a review of Air Quality, Odour and Noise Assessments, information in response to comments made by the Environment Agency, an Addendum Noise Report and a supplementary Planning Statement, which the applicant has provided in response to various issues raised during the formal consultation process.

You may view the further information at Dartford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent DA1 1DR.

Alternatively, details of the application can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planningrepresentations@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 19 January 2014





TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 PLANNING APPLICATIONS LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

DOV/13/01101	Erection of a first floor extension incorporating a balcony to accommodate a one bedroom flat Cliff Top Cafe, Old Dover Road, Capel-le-Ferne, CT18 7HT	ARW
DOV/13/01097	Erection of a two storey side extension and alterations to existing vehicular access 56 Sandwich Road, Eythorne, Dover, CT15 4DE	ARW
DOV/14/00007	Installation of 501 solar panels to western facing roofslope and 420 to eastern facing roofslope Stevens & Carliotti, Pembroke Works, Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, CT13 9ST	ARW
DOV/13/01094	Erection of a rear dormer roof extension 5 Easole Street, Nonington, Dover, CT15 4EU	CON
DOV/13/01107	Internal alterations to improve the quality of accommodation of Wolsley and Roberts dormitory blocks Duke Of Yorks Royal Military School, Deal Road, Guston, Dover, CT15 5E	LBC
DOV/14/00008	Conversion of garage to habitable room, erection of a first floor side extension, two storey south west extension, insertion of rooflights to front and rear roofslopes, insertion of window to side elevation and creation of car parking 1 Court Lodge, Church Lane, Deal, CT14 9WA	ARW
DOV/13/01097	Erection of a two storey side extension and alterations to existing vehicular access 56 Sandwich Road, Eythorne, Dover, CT15 4DE	ARW
DOV/13/01116	Insertion of rooflight to rear roof slope 2 Halliday Drive, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7AX	LCN
DOV/13/01117	Insertion of rooflight to rear roof slope 2 Halliday Drive, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7AX	LCN
DOV/14/00009	Erection of dormer roof extensions Homeleigh, 3 Sondes Road, Deal, CT14 7BW	CON
DOV/14/00013	Variation of condition 2 and 3 of planning permission DOV/10/00606 to allow other artists to exhibit their work (section 73 application) 32 St Georges Road, Deal, CT14 6BA	CON
DOV/14/00015	Installation of replacement windows and doors 42 Archery Square, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7HP	LCN
DOV/14/00010	Outline application for the erection of four detached dwellings Land adjoining White Lodge, Preston Hill, Wingham, CT3 1DB	ARW

Reason for Advert Codes:-

CON – Within Conservation Area **LCN** – Listed Building in a Conservation Area
ARW – Affects a Public Right of Way **LBC** – The proposal affects a Listed Building
CON – Within Conservation Area

Some applications are not publicised in this list. All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent **within 21 days** marked "for the attention of Planning". Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website www.dover.gov.uk/planning or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich

Failure to meet the above deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered. Any representations received may be made available for inspection by the public, and may be copied to others, including the secretary of state and the applicant if there is an appeal against the council's decision. Representations will not be acknowledged until an application has been determined.

Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate description of any application.

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

13/03155/FULL	The Forum The Common, Broadwater - Temporary light installation with frame, maximum 3.5 metres high above roof (CA)
13/03272/HOUSE	Garden Cottage High Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst - Extensions and covered walkway (LB) (CA)
13/03824/HOUSE	Spring Cottage The Hill, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst - Two storey rear extension (CA)
13/03793/HOUSE	Brissenden Farm Sand Lane, Frittenden - Conservatory and single storey rear extension (LB)
13/03799/LBC	Brissenden Farm Sand Lane, Frittenden - Listed Building Consent: Conservatory and single storey rear extension (LB)
13/03888/LBC	1 Laundry Cottages Water Lane, Hawkhurst - Listed Building Consent: Removal of wall between sitting and dining rooms (LB)
13/03763/HOUSE	Old Barn Cottage Yew Tree Green Road, Horsmonden - Conversion of existing garage for the purpose of incidental enjoyment of the main dwelling (LB)
14/00018/HOUSE	The Coach House 5 Camden Hill, Park - Installation of air source heat pump on east facing wall (CA)
13/03788/LBC	Tile Cottage Rye Road, Sandhurst - Listed Building Consent - (1) (works carried out) - Replacing partitions; Installation of floating wall; Removal of 1970's built back boiler and brick flue; Remove partition in kitchen; Remove cupboard covering bread oven opening; Conversion of first floor landing cupboard to study and storage; Remove pine floor boards on top floor; (2) - Replacement of both bedroom doors and partitioning; Installation of under floor heating in kitchen; Installation of gas central heating; Conversion of large cupboard in bedroom into shower room/toilet; Replace 1970's pine open tread stairs with an oak part K approved equivalent (LB)
13/03789/LBC	Shirley Hall Leggs Lane, Speldhurst - Listed Building Consent - Minor alterations to include division of first floor room to provide two en-suite bathrooms, reconfigure ground floor loo area and install set of french windows to kitchen (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA)
Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST)
Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgegates.gov.uk), at The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgegates.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 7 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 18 January 2014



THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

MA/13/1905/N	- EAST LENHAM FARM, EAST LENHAM ROAD, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2DP - Installation of CCTV cameras on approved solar park. Reason: 1
MA/13/2103/S	- GROOMS COTTAGE, COURT LODGE PARK, LOWER ROAD, WEST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0PD - Change of use from residential to office use for a temporary period of two years. Reason: 1
MA/13/2125/S	- TROON HOUSE, SUTTON ROAD, LANGLEY, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3LZ - Erection of single storey annexe to accommodate staff. Reason: 1
MA/13/2131/N	- HAZEL COTTAGE, 2, CHURCH LANE, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4EF - Erection of part single storey and part two storey rear extension and associated works. Reason: 1, 2
MA/13/2132/N	- HAZEL COTTAGE, 2, CHURCH LANE, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4EF - Listed building consent for the erection of part single storey and part two storey rear extension and internal alterations. Reason: 3
MA/13/2142/S	- 81, LONDON ROAD, MAIDSTONE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 0DU - Change of use of existing office building to form 13 residential flats. Reason: 1
MA/13/2145/S	- OLD TOLL OFFICE LOCK ISLAND ALLINGTON LOCK, LOCK LANE, SANDLING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 0LU - Change of use of redundant toll office to Use Class A5 for the provision and sale of hot and cold snacks and drinks. Reason: 1
MA/13/2147/N	- NEWNHAM COURT SHOPPING VILLAGE, BEARSTED ROAD, WEAVERING, KENT - Change of use and conversion of existing building to Class D1 day nursery with outdoor play space and alterations to external appearance of the building, drop-off/pick-up area, turning and parking. Reason: 6
MA/13/2155/S	- LITTLE PAGEHURST, PAGEHURST ROAD, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0JD - Erection of a timber cabin, gravel road and parking area, and access alterations for use as a care farm for adults with learning disabilities. Reason: 1
MA/13/2157/N	- THE COACH HOUSE, CHARLTON COURT PLACE, EAST SUTTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3AN - Listed building consent for works to front brick gables to include the replacement of existing leadwork and to install new leadwork where there is currently none. Reason: 3
MA/13/2159/N	- SOUTH BARN, BOUGHTON FARM, SANDWAY, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2BD - Planning application for replacement windows and external doors. Reason: 1, 2
MA/13/2160/N	- SOUTH BARN, BOUGHTON FARM, SANDWAY, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2BD - Listed building consent for replacement windows and external doors. Reason: 3
MA/13/2166/S	- 6, MILL COTTAGES, TUTSHAM FARM, WEST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0NF - An application for listed building consent for a single storey rear extension. Reason: 3
MA/13/2169/N	- LAND AT REEDS WOOD, COX STREET, DETLING, KENT - Erection of single dwelling and annexe with landscaping scheme and associated works (under paragraph 55 of the National Planning Policy Framework). Reason: 6, 9
MA/13/2182/N	- BROOMFIELDS, HOGBARN LANE, HARRIETSHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1NZ - Application for the removal of condition 2 of permission MA/12/1699 (Extension and conversion of stable to form two holiday lets) so that the building can be used as two dwellings. Reason: 9
MA/13/2183/S	- 452, TONBRIDGE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 9LW - Change of use of car park to car wash. Reason: 1

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 6 - Application is Major Development.
- 9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **2nd February 2014**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 19th January 2014.



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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
5. The application does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.
7. This application affects trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 03 FEBRUARY 2014

SW/13/0909:

Erection of 5 detached dwellings with garages, changes to land levels and associated infrastructure. (Amendments to approved application SW/07/0284). Please note additional ecological appraisal, amended southern boundary and layout - Land Rear of 97 -101, Wards Hill Road, MINSTER; **REASON 7**

SW/13/1376:

Two storey 10 classroom extension to Block B comprising of 9 general classrooms, 1 ICT/Resource area including offices and toilets. Partial demolition of Block C with internal alterations at ground floor, re-cladding existing building and new first floor extension to form new teaching and admin accommodation - The Abbey School, London Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 4 & 6**

SW/13/1530:

Conversion of the office annexe to Flats A & B - 4 Preston Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/1546:

Removal of condition (ii) of planning permission SW/87/1191 (use as a chalet park and construction of holiday chalet) to permit 12 month occupancy of chalets - Parklands Village, The Broadway, MINSTER; **REASON 3**

SW/13/1551:

Erection of cricket net - Minster Cricket Club, Chequers Road, MINSTER; **REASON 3**

SW/13/1567:

Outline application for erection of 63 dwellings, open space, pedestrian and vehicular access, car parking, landscaping and associated works - Land Opposite Greenways (and to the south of Brogdale Place), Brogdale Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 2, 3 & 5**

SW/13/1573:

Extension to warehouse, decommissioning and alteration to loading bays 1 & 2; extension to service yard with additional tractor unit & trailer parking; extension to HVG tractor unit parking area; landscaped cartilage to Claxfield House; amendments to car, cycle, motorcycle & disabled parking; peripheral landscaped acoustic bund & comprehensive landscaping and biodiversity enhancement - Fowler Welch Coolchain, London Road, TONGE; **REASONS 2, 3 & 6**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

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HIGHWAYS – ASHFORD AREA**TALLY HO ROAD, SHADOXHURST
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Tally Ho Road, Shadoxhurst.

A closure is planned to commence from 3 February 2014 for up to 6 days.

Tally Ho Road will be closed junctions with Magpie Hall Road and Hornash Lane.

The alternative route is via Magpie Hall Road, Ashford Road, Hamstreet Road and Hornash Lane.

It is planned that works will be carried out between 07:30 hours and 16:30 hours each day. It is hoped that the road can be re-opened outside working hours but there may be occasions when this is not possible.

**WYE LEVEL CROSSING, WYE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER JANUARY 2014****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Wye Level Crossing, Wye, as defined below.

Closures are planned as follows

Friday 24 January 2014 from 23:00 hours through until Monday 27 January at 05:00 hours

Tuesday 4 March from 23:00 hours through until 07:00 hours

Saturday 22 March at 00:30 hours through until Monday 24 March at 04:30 hours

Tuesday 29 April from 23:00 hours through until 05:30 hours

Bridge Street will be closed in the vicinity of the Level Crossing.

There will be no direct access between the A28 and Wye during these closures.

The alternative route is via Bridge Street, Churchfield Way, High Street, Upper Bridge Street, Oxenturn Road, Nacolt Road, Hinxhill Road, The Street (Willesborough), Azory Kennington Road & Willesborough Road, A28 Canterbury Road and Harville Road.

HIGHWAYS – CANTERBURY AREA**CROMWELL ROAD, CANTERBURY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to provide a sewer connection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Cromwell Road, Canterbury.

A closure is planned to commence from Monday 27 January 2014 for up to 2 weeks, or until the works have been completed.

Cromwell Road will be closed in the vicinity of number 16, with no through access between the junctions with Milton Road and Lesley Avenue.

The alternative route is via Ethelbert Road, South Canterbury Road and Puckle Lane.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

SHALMSFORD STREET FOOTCROSSING, THRUXTED LANE, CHARTHAM (RESTRICTIONS ON PEDESTRIANS & CYCLISTS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to maintain and upgrade the crossing, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit pedestrians and cyclists on Shalmsford Street Footcrossing, Thruxted Lane, Chartham.

A closure of Shalmsford Street Footcrossing is planned to commence from Friday 24 January 2014 at 08:00 hours through until Friday 31 January at 16:00 hours.

The foot-crossing linking the 2 sections of Thruxted Lane, Chartham will be closed in the vicinity of the railway line.

The alternative route for pedestrians and cyclists is via Shalmsford Street and Bobbin Lodge Hill.

HIGHWAYS – DOVER AREA**ATLEE AVENUE, AYLESHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of electricity cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Atlee Avenue, Aylesham.

A closure is planned to commence from 3 February 2014 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

Atlee Avenue will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Dorman Avenue North.

The alternative route is via Dorman Avenue North, Market Place, Boulevard Courrieres, Vale View Road and Atlee Avenue.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

**CANNON STREET, DOVER
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to provide an upgraded gas supply to a property conversion, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Cannon Street, Dover.

A closure is planned to commence from Wednesday 22 January 2014 through until Friday 24 January inclusive. Cannon Street will be closed from Market Square to the vicinity of number 4.

There is no alternative route during the closure. To allow essential access within the specified times allowed, the One-way Traffic Order in respect of Cannon Street and Biggin Street will be suspended from the junction with Penchester Road, and the One-way Traffic Order in respect of Market Square will be suspended from the junction with Castle Street / King Street.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

Please note that these dates differ from those initially publicised.

**RAMSGATE ROAD, SANDWICH
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER JANUARY 2014****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of quay wall refurbishment works as part of the Sandwich Town Tidal Defences, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit certain traffic on part of Ramsgate Road, Sandwich.

Ramsgate Road, Sandwich will be closed to southbound traffic (i.e. towards Sandwich) from the junction with Willowbank as far as and including the Toll Bridge.

This closure is planned to commence from 25 January 2014 with an estimated completion date of 25 February 2014.

The alternative route is via A256 Sandwich Bypass, Ash Road, Strand Street.

There will be No Right Turn from The Quay into Ramsgate Road

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to lift these restrictions outside the working hours.

HIGHWAYS – GRAVESHAM AREA**WATERTON AVENUE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of Pre Patching to microsurface dressing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Waterton Avenue, Gravesend on or after 21st January 2014 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between junction with Denton Street and Mark Lane.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

The alternative route is via Denton Street, Lower Range Road and Mark Lane.

HIGHWAYS – MAIDSTONE AREA**HAMPSTEAD LANE, YALDING
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of a RSM inspection and maintenance, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hampstead Lane, Yalding, on or after 25 January 2014 for up to 2 nights between 23:30hrs and 05:00hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at Yalding Level Crossing.

The alternative route is via B2162 Hampstead Lane, B2015 Maidstone Road, A228 Boyle Way/Branbridges Road, Beltring Road, Gravely Ways, Lees Road, B2162 Hampstead Lane.

**HOWLAND ROAD, MARDEN
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because UK Power Networks need to access a telegraph pole, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Howland Road, Marden, on or after 20 January 2014 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Claremont Place to outside "Willows".

The alternative route is via B2079 Maidstone Road,

A229 Staplehurst Road/Maidstone Road/Station Road, Marden Road and Park Road.

HIGHWAYS – SEVENOAKS AREA**EYNSFORD ROAD, CROCKENHILL, SEVENOAKS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of the installation of a new cable, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Eynsford Road, Crockenhill, Sevenoaks, on or after 3rd February 2014 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Kidds Cottages and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Broadway, Green Court Road, Goldsel Road, High Street, London Road, Wested Road and vice versa.

**B2026 STATION ROAD, EDENBRIDGE, SEVENOAKS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of the application of high friction surfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2026 Station Road, Edenbridge, Sevenoaks, on or after 23rd March 2014 for up to 1 night between 20:00 hrs to 05:00hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed 50m in both directions from a point 30m south of Westways and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is FOR LIGHT VEHICLES ONLY NOT SUITABLE FOR HGVs: B2027 Four Elms Road, Bough Beech Road, Clinton Road, Chequers Hill, Hever Road, High Street and Mont St Aignan Way.

HIGHWAYS – SHEPWAY AREA**PLEYDELL GARDENS, FOLKESTONE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Pleydell Gardens, Folkestone.

A closure is planned to commence from 20 January 2014 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The northern (westbound) side of Pleydell Gardens will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Cheriton Place.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of the northern side of Pleydell Gardens will be suspended to allow access up to the point of closure.

The alternative route is via Cheriton Place, Sandgate Road and Shakespeare Terrace.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

**SHAFTESBURY AVENUE, CHERITON
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of on-going emergency repairs to a collapsed sewer, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Shaftesbury Avenue, Cheriton.

Shaftesbury Avenue has been closed since 3 December 2013. The closure will need to continue until the works have been completed.

The closure is between the junctions with Ashley Avenue and Stanley Road.

The alternative route is via Ashley Avenue, Cheriton High Street and Stanley Road.

It is currently unknown how long these works will take. The duration depends on the extent of the problem and conditions affecting how quickly repairs can be carried out.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

This Order takes effect from 20 January 2014.

HIGHWAYS – SWALE AREA**WARDS HILL ROAD, MINSTER-ON-SEA
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

**For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 03000 418181 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways**

Because of road modifications and the construction of a pedestrian crossing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Wards Hill Road, Minster-on-Sea.

A closure is planned to commence from 3 February 2014 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Wards Hill Road will be closed between the junctions with Lynmouth Drive and Love Lane.

The alternative route is via Wards Hill Road, The Broadway, B2008 Minster Road, Waterloo Hill and Union Road.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

HIGHWAYS – THANET AREA**A255 DANE COURT ROAD, BROADSTAIRS & ST PETER'S ROAD, MARGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works in connection with the installation of Dane Valley Toucan Crossing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of A255 Dane Court Road, Broadstairs and St Peter's Road, Margate.

Closures are planned for the 3 Sundays of 9, 16 and 23 February 2014, between 07:00 hours and 19:00 hours each day.

A255 Dane Court Road, Broadstairs / St Peter's Road, Margate will be closed from the junction with Sacketts Hill to a point approximately 150 metres west of Broadley Road. Access to Broadley Road will be maintained.

The alternative route is via A255 Dane Court Road, A256 Westwood Road, A254 Ramsgate Road, B2052 College Road and A255 St Peter's Road.

HIGHWAYS AREA – TONBRIDGE & MALLING**PILGRIMS WAY/BATTLEFIELDS, WROTHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pilgrims Way/Battlefields, Wrotham, on or after 3 February 2014 for up to 10 working days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside number 24 Battlefields.

The alternative route is via Battlefields, Kemsing Road, High Street and Old London Road.

A228 SEVEN MILE LANE, EAST PECKHAM (TEMPORARY 30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of sign clearance and hedge cutting, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic travelling at any greater speed than 30mph on A228 Seven Mile Lane, East Peckham, on or after 20 January 2014 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The restriction is between A26 Alders roundabout and B2015 Maidstone Road roundabout.

HIGHWAYS – TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA**LITTLE MOUNT SION
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2014****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of a new gas service, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Little Mount Sion, Tunbridge Wells, on or after 3 February 2014 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the High Street to outside number 2 Little Mount Sion.

The alternative route is via B2023 Mount Sion and Berkeley Road.

**John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ**

Dated 19th January 2014



PLANNING



Planning applications

Notice under Article 13 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/13/02222/FUL: Welsh Harp, Mill Road, Sturry, CT2 0AW Change of use of public house (Class A4) to ground floor restaurant Class (A3) with three bedroom flat above and erection of two-storey side extension to provide kitchen, storage and hot food take away (Class A5) on the ground floor and a one bedroom self-contained flat on the first floor. **Applicant: Mr Kaya** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/13/02223/LB: Welsh Harp, Mill Road, Sturry, CT2 0AS Change of use of public house (Class A4) to ground floor restaurant Class (A3) with three bedroom flat above and erection of two-storey side extension to provide kitchen, storage and hot food take away (Class A5) on the ground floor and a one bedroom self-contained flat on the first floor. **Applicant: Mr Kaya** Reason: Work to a listed building
CA/13/02230/FUL: 30 Cavendish Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5BB Replacement of existing front windows and front door. **Applicant: Mrs Edwards** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/02377/FUL: The Loft, Little Burstard Farm, Lynsore Bottom, Upper Hardres, CT4 6EQ Proposed replacement dwelling and outbuildings. **Applicant: Mr D E Breaker** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.
CA/13/02396/FUL: Beechmount, Conyngham Lane, Bridge, CT4 5JX Proposed replacement dwelling and creation of new garage **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Forbes** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/02406/LB: 16 High Street, Bridge, CT4 5JY Replacement of the existing clay peg tile roof and roof structure, including all rainwater goods, fascia and barge board, to a first floor domestic flat and a ground floor retail unit. **Applicant: Sangers/Paydens Limited** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA/13/02414/FUL: 24-26 William Street, Herne Bay Change of use application from Class A1 to Class A4 to enable the use of the premises as a tapas style bar. **Applicant: Neil Barker** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/02415/ADV: 1 New Dover Road, Canterbury Installation of externally illuminated individual fascia lettering and internally illuminated projecting external signage. **Applicant: Tesco Stores Limited** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/13/02437/ADV: The Longmarket, Canterbury Installation of a total of 38 non-illuminated signs comprising of 20 fascia signs, 17 projecting/hanging signs (flags) and one fascia signage on existing planter in courtyard. **Applicant: Strathclyde Pension Fund c/o Glasgow City Council** Reason: Setting listed building in conservation area.
CA/14/00001/FUL: 108 High Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5JY Conversion of upper floors from commercial and associated residential accommodation to provide six one-bedroom flats. **Applicant: Fatmax Properties Limited** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00003/LB: Canterbury West Railway Station, Station Road West, Canterbury, CT2 8AN The repair and replacement of internal and external features and structural elements of the original station buildings and platform canopies on both platforms 1 and 2 of Canterbury West Station. **Applicant: Network Rail Infrastructure Limited** Reason: Work to a listed building
CA/14/00005/FUL: 103B Tankerton Road, Whitstable, CT5 2AJ Change of use of store/light industrial unit to one dwelling with external alterations including a balcony deck. **Applicant: JA Ellis (Minster) Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00007/FUL: 47 ST Augustines Road, Canterbury, CT1 1XR Demolition of three separate single-storey extensions, replacement by one new single-storey L shaped extension with associated landscape works. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Hills** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00013/FUL: 14 Union Road, Bridge, CT4 5LN Single-storey rear extension. **Applicant: Miss D Hill** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00016/FUL: Unit 8, 15 Whitefriars Street, Canterbury, CT1 2TA Provision of new rear service access.
Applicant: Whitefriars Canterbury Property Trust Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00019/FUL: Honeywood House, Britton Court Farm, Hackington Road, Tyler Hill, Canterbury, CT2 9NG Extension link between main house and annexe including a rear extension to the main house and indoor swimming pool between the two. **Applicant: Mrs Awosika** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/14/00021/VAR: Chestfield Farm, The Drove, Chestfield Variation of conditions 10 and 16 of planning permission CA/10/01644/FUL to substitute drawing no P100 C for drawing no P100 B; change to position of pond and line of visibility splay. **Applicant: Hollamby Estates (2005) Ltd** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/14/00034/FUL: 11 Island Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1EP Replacement of three sash windows with double-glazed timber vertical sliding-sash windows. **Applicant: Mr M Mitchell** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00035/FUL: Castle House, Orchard Street, Canterbury, CT2 8RA Change of use from Use Class B1 to Use Class D1 mixed use and counselling services, with related Use Class B1 administration uses (supporting community outreach services). **Applicant: Turning Point** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00036/FUL: 11 Dering Close, Bridge, CT4 5ND Erection of a detached single garage and related drive. **Applicant: Mr T Wilmshurst** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be submitted via public access on the planning pages of the website www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc to arrive on or before **Monday 10 February 2014**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 17 January 2014

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW – IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH EB10 PUBLIC FOOTPATH EB10

(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(T), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL INTENDS TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH EB10, BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH ST. DAVIDS AVENUE AND IT JUNCTION WITH OLD FOLKSTONE ROAD FROM THE 27TH JANUARY 2014.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed because construction works are planned adjacent to it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via St. David Avenue, St Giles Road and Old Folkstone Road and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Denise Roffey

Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW – IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

PUBLIC FOOTPATH KM4 (PART) TESTON PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2013

The above named Order made on 11th October 2013 under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 will divert the entire width of that length of public footpath KM4 which commences from NGR TQ 7084 5314 (Point A) on the Order plan and runs in a southerly direction adjacent to the riverbank for a distance of 54 metres to NGR TQ 7083 5308 (Point B) and will add a new length of public footpath numbered KM4 with a width of 2 metres, which commences from the aforementioned Point A, and runs in a south westerly and then south easterly direction for 55 metres to the aforementioned (Point B).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, Kings Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there at the price of £5.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Mrs Olivia Bonham at the Kent County Council (address as below). Tel: 01622 221169 email: olivia.bonham@kent.gov.uk not later than 19th February 2014. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE AND MALLING, AND GRAVESHAM AND MEDWAY UNITARY AUTHORITY

(BYWAYS OPEN TO ALL TRAFFIC (BOATS) MR45A, SNODLAND AND NS245 & NS221, LUDDSDOWN) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 2014

THE MEDWAY COUNCIL (BYWAY OPEN TO ALL TRAFFIC (BOAT) RS221 & CHAPEL LANE (PART) HALLING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 2014 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that The Kent County Council and Medway Council in exercise of their powers under Sections 1(b)(e)(f) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 have made Orders the effect of which are to make permanent the Kent County Council (Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs) MR45A, Snodland and NS245 & NS221, Luddesdown) (Prohibition Of Driving) Experimental scheme of traffic management and the Medway Council (Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) RS221 & Chapel Lane (part) Halling) (Prohibition Of Driving) Experimental scheme of traffic management.

The effect of the Orders is to prohibit vehicle access to BOATs MR45A, Snodland and NS245 & NS221 Luddesdown, BOAT RS221 and Chapel Lane (part) Halling for the purposes of preventing damage to the highways, preserving the character of the highways and protecting and enhancing the amenity of the area.

Exemptions are provided in the Orders in relation to:-

1. enabling work to be carried out on or adjacent to the BOATs;
2. use by the emergency services and by any local authority or water authority.
3. use by owners of premises adjacent to, or which are only accessed via, the BOATs.
4. non-motorised vehicles, excluding horse drawn carriages.
5. parties who on application have been issued with a permit to access BOATs .

The Orders came into operation on the 6th & 7 January 2014

Documents giving more detailed particulars including a copy of the Orders, explanatory statements and a map showing the extent of the restrictions may be inspected during normal office hours at The Kent County Council Offices, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, at Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Offices, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, Kent, ME19 4LZ, Gravesham Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1AU and Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR.

Anyone wishing to question the validity of the Orders or any of their provisions on the grounds that it or they are not within the powers conferred by the Act, or that any requirement of the Act or of any instrument made under the Act has not been complied with may, within six weeks from the date on which the order was made, apply to the High Court for that purpose.

Mike Overbeke
Head of Regulatory Services
Customer Services
Invicta House
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

R. Cooper
Director of Regeneration,
Community and Culture
Civic Headquarters,
Gun Wharf,
Dock Road,
Chatham,
Kent
ME4 4TR

For detailed enquiries please contact:
Graham Rusling

Contact Centre Tel: 03000 41 71 71

Or for further details on Traffic Regulation Orders on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

Public Rights of Way and Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 19th January 2014

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
Kent Public Rights of Way and Access Service,
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Kent chief exec dismisses 'bonkers' talk of merger

ENGLAND humiliated in the Ashes, talk of a review and the customary swipe at the county game.

It is a familiar tale that has followed every battering of an England side through the decades, except this time the bizarre idea to merge counties, starting with Kent and Sussex, has been thrown into the mix.

The thoughts of former ECB chairman Lord MacLaurin, which also included reducing the county game to 12 teams from 18, has been batted around by the national press this week but has been greeted with bemusement in the offices at Kent's St Lawrence home in Canterbury.

Unsurprisingly not in agreement with Lord MacLaurin's ideas is Kent chief executive Jamie Clifford, who feels the Ashes defeat was "just a blip". He is happy to discuss how far England have come as a result of changes made by the very man who would see counties merge.

Lord MacLaurin was behind a review in 1997 that led to new processes both in the county game and at international level, putting England on the path to becoming number one in the Test rankings.

"I'm just not quite sure he understands the value of what he did when he was chairman," said Clifford.

"The reduction of 18 teams to 12 would work against the structure he created which helped us to a point where we were number one in the world.

"He should almost give himself a pat on the back for what has gone on before now.

"Every game is live now. When we had an 18-team championship, as you see in the Premier League, there are a lot of clubs playing for the middle places.

"In cricket it is more acute because there are no Champions League places. It might only be your top three or four teams battling it out to win the title. In the one-division structure there is no consequence of coming bottom of the pile."

England's comprehensive failure Down Under after an Ashes win on home turf signals the end of their supremacy, which is why Clifford is keeping things in perspective.

"What's happened in Australia is just a blip, actually," he said. "The structure is pretty solid. The academies and support and structure around team England should lead to success.

"I don't think there's a need to throw the baby out with the bathwater in terms of a review.

"The response from the media has been fairly hysterical in terms of 'everything has gone to pot'. I'm sure it makes for interesting broadcasting and copy, but the reaction from inside

The inquest into the Ashes thrashing continued this week as former ECB chairman Lord MacLaurin suggested a joining of counties could help England's cause. **Greg Miles** talks to Kent chief executive Jamie Clifford about the idea.



PERSPECTIVE: Jamie Clifford feels the Ashes whitewash was just a blip and that England will get back to the top

the game, in the ECB and at counties is yes, everyone is disappointed, but we can see it for what it is.

"We have had a sustained period of success. What are Australia going to do – sit back and let us enjoy that and have another Ashes? They are busting a gut to get back to where they should be.

"There are two sides competing for

“The reduction of 18 teams to 12 would work against the structure he created which helped us to a point where we were number one in the world”

Jamie Clifford,
Kent Cricket chief executive

success. It's very different when the momentum's against you and you're overseas. I don't think it's any more complicated than what happened in and around the team.

"There does need to be a sense of perspective. It would be wrong to suggest the structure of the game needs changing."

The defeat, though, led to Lord MacLaurin feeling there needed to be changes at county level to make England a more competitive Test side.

"When England do well, everyone pats England on the back and when they're not doing well it's the counties' fault," said Clifford.

"That happens every time. You could pull out a Wisden from the 50s and it would be the same. People always look for cause and effect.

"There are so many variables that go into whether it's successful. It's not just down to the structure or preparation, but a number of combinations."

Putting Kent and Sussex up for a merger does not bear thinking about for Clifford.

"Logistically, it's bonkers," he said. "All the roads run in the wrong direction, putting it simply. Sussex and Hampshire might work because the roads run east to west – they don't run east to west from Sussex to Kent. Just on a pure geography level, it doesn't make sense.

"I just don't think it's even worth bothering about thinking how it might work.

"We are 18 counties with a proud history and we just get on with it. We should celebrate the fact we have 18 counties – and perhaps we should have more. There are lots of ways of doing it.

"The Football League copes fine with having depth, and other sports have depth. Rugby has a league structure that's club-based that we don't have in cricket.

"I'm not surprised it's come up, but I do question if it's even relevant. I

“You could put Sussex and Kent together for one, because they are near and maybe in the south-east of England you'll get some very good players coming through in a bigger county”

Lord MacLaurin,
Former ECB chairman

don't think it's going to the heart of the issue in relation to this particular Ashes defeat. The long-term story is much more relevant."

Clifford has seen first-hand the work that has taken place since the dark days of when he first started working in the sport and believes those changes are well placed to put England back at the top of the rankings.

"There's always things you want to try to do better – I don't think anybody is complacent," he said. "You're always trying to improve.

"I was there in 1999 when England were booed off at The Oval, having been beaten by New Zealand, and went to number nine in the Test rankings. That was my first year in cricket.

"In my years working at Wisden I spent a lot of time with Nasser Hussain and was close to the England camp and saw what he was trying to do in terms of creating a ruthlessness around England.

"I started to see the building blocks, the academies in the early 2000s, the national academy which at the time we had nothing like, the emerging players programme, the video analysis and the science and research at Loughborough.

"All those things have added up to a situation where we are managing our chance of performing. The influence the ECB has on counties' development of young players is big, so they are more in control of the likely outcomes.

"County cricket didn't get in the way of that but provided a backbone.

"If any good comes out of losing 5-0, it refocuses everybody's attention here and enhances the value of the competition from Australia not being just competitive but very competitive.

"Everyone is disappointed, but you have to maintain a sense of perspective of where we have come from. Let's make sure 2015 is a great battle again."



TOGETHER? Lord MacLaurin named Kent and Sussex as two sides that could become one for the good of the game

Ex-chairman points finger of blame at domestic game

MUCH has been said in the wake of the humbling in the Southern Hemisphere but nothing so out of the box as what Lord MacLaurin concluded earlier this week.

While the main focus has been on the futures of batsman Kevin Pietersen and coach Andy Flower, Lord MacLaurin honed his sights on the domestic game as the problem behind England's hammering.

The 76-year-old, who was born in Blackheath, made his name with supermarket giant Tesco, where he worked his way through the system to become a managing director and chairman.

He has also had appointments as non-executive director and chairman of phone company Vodafone in a business career that saw him knighted in 1989 and made a life peer in 1996.

A year later, he took up the role as chairman of the ECB, where he remained until 2002.

"I think 12 counties would be a far better producer of Test cricketers than 18 first-class counties, and some of the counties are playing pretty average cricket," he said on BBC Radio 5 live's Sportsworld programme.

"People don't watch county cricket. What they are watching is

Twenty20, IPL and international cricket.

"We have got to get players coming through our system which give us the best possible future. It would do no harm at all to look at the structure of cricket going forward for the next 5-10 years and see where we come to.

"You could put Sussex and Kent together for one, because they are near and maybe in the south-east of England you'll get some very good players coming through in a bigger county.

"You could go Warwickshire and Northants, you could go Gloucestershire and Glamorgan, or Gloucestershire and

Somerset. You could do it easily.

"We are not producing Test cricketers and we haven't got a spinner to name in the squad now Graeme Swann has gone. Put it out for people to look at and discuss it and see what can take the game forward."

He added that he thought there could be changes at the top of the England set-up following the heavy defeats.

"It is a very serious blow for English cricket, so nobody can say their position is secure," he said.

MacLaurin knows about overhaul of the county set

EXPERIMENTING with the format of county cricket is nothing new - and in fact something that Lord MacLaurin knows a lot about, having been at the helm of the ECB during the last big change.

As chairman of the ECB in 1997 he led the Raising the Standard report, which suggested a three-tier conference-style structure including play-offs.

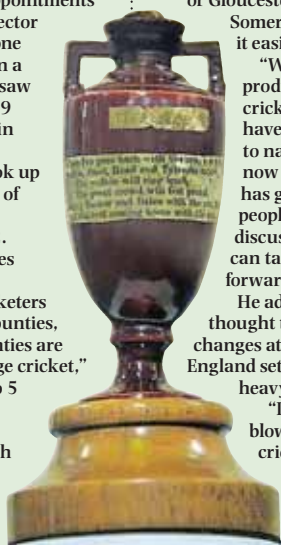
The response was not enthusiastic, but what did happen was the split of the County Championship into two divisions, which took place in 2000.

Based on the 1999 finishing positions, the counties were split into two tiers of nine teams. For the first six seasons the bottom three teams in Division One were relegated and the top three in Division Two were promoted. That changed in 2006 to a two-up and two-down system.

That creates a lot more competition for counties than under the previous system in which come the end of the season there were plenty of dead rubbers for mid-table sides.

At least now there is plenty more at stake, be it up or down for sides, making Lord MacLaurin's comments this week about a lack of competition to bring players through a little strange.

Since then, there have been further reviews also calling for a reduction in numbers of sides in the two divisions, but the structure is set to stay for now.



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Former Prem star staying at Gills until end of the season

CRAIG Fagan has extended his stay at Gillingham until the end of the season.

The forward joined Peter Taylor's side in November and has featured in seven games for the club, making his debut in the 2-1 win at Sheffield United.

The 31-year-old, who can also play on the wing, previously worked with Taylor when he was manager at Hull City.

He has been something of a good-luck charm for the club, having played in only one defeat in that time.

Fagan said: "I am enjoying my time here. I know the manager from before and I'm enjoying playing with the lads.

"I've been to a few clubs and this is one of the friendliest I've been to. Not just the playing staff but people around the ground as well."



STAYING: Fagan signs

Tredwell in T20 World Cup team

JAMES Tredwell has been named in the initial 30-man squad for England's T20 World Cup campaign.

The squad will be cut down to 15 following the three-match T20 series against Australia, which starts on January 29.

The World Cup takes place in Bangladesh in March.



DEAL: Camier will ride for Ioda

Camier steps into the elite in MotoGP

ASHFORD'S Leon Camier has made the step up into MotoGP for next season.

The 27-year-old former British Superbike Champion has been named as the second rider for Italian team Ioda Racing alongside Danilo Petrucci.

Camier has spent the last four seasons in the World Superbike Championship, claiming nine podiums, with his best finish coming in 2011 while riding for Alitalia Aprilia.

Now Camier, who is based in Andorra, will pit his wits in the most competitive form of the sport for the first time when the season starts in Qatar on March 23.

Hawkins wastes lead in first round

DITTON'S Barry Hawkins threw away a three-frame lead as he bowed out of the Masters on Wednesday.

The 34-year-old was 5-2 up against Ricky Walden in the first-round match but lost the following four frames as he went out 6-5.

He would have played Ronnie O'Sullivan in the quarter-finals.

Wembley date for Kent hockey duo

CANTERBURY and Holcombe are just a game away from the final of the indoor hockey 5s.

The two men's teams are in opposing semi-finals, with Canterbury up against Reading and Holcombe paired with East Grinstead. The games take place at Wembley Arena on February 2.

England favourites after opening win

ENGLAND women took advantage in their bid to retain the Ashes with a 61-run win in the one-off Test captained by Kent's Charlotte Edwards.

England, also featuring Kent's

Lydia Greenway, take six points for the win in the multi-format series. It means they only need two wins from the six limited-overs games to retain the trophy. The first is this Sunday.

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13/63 1.2 12V 69 Special Edition 5dr Brilliant Silver under 3,000 miles	£8,295
10/60 1.6 TDI 105 Elegance 5dr Aqua Blue under 43,000 miles	£7,995
10/60 1.2 TDI 105 GreenLine 5dr Estate Arctic Green under 38,000 miles	£7,695
10/60 1.2 12V 69 SE 5dr Hatchback Black Magic under 20,000 miles	£7,695
11/60 1.2 6V S 5dr Hatch Corrida Red under 26,000 miles	£5,995
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ŠKODA Rapid

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11/11 1.8 TSI 160 SE 5dr 4x4 Candy White under 24,000 miles	£14,995
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10/60 2.0 TDI 110 S 5dr Black Magic under 12,000 miles	£13,995
11/61 1.2 TSI 105 S 5dr Candy White under 21,000 miles	£11,895

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13/63 Yeti 1.2 TSI 105 SE PLUS 5dr Candy White under 3,000 miles	£17,695
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13/63 Octavia 1.6 TDI 105 SE 5dr Hatchback Brilliant Silver under 3,000 miles	£16,995
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13/63 Rapid 1.6 TDI 105 SE 5dr Red Rosso Brunello under 3,000 miles	£14,995
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